

Reader Responds on 6-Apr-09 . . . See Below!

New Year's Rockin' Chairs

Where CoB Dean Lance Nail's Plan to Hire 6 New Chairs Stands Today

If you have been thinking lately that CoB dean Lance Nail's plan to staff the CoB's six new departments with six outside chairs has hit a snag, you are probably correct. It is the first of April-09 already, and only one new *outside* chair has emerged. This one came by way of Kirby E. "Skip" Hughes, an associate professor of accounting at LSU who will soon take over the CoB's new accounting school.

Table 1 The CoB's Rockin' New Chairs		
Department	New Chair	Speculation Has It
ACC	Kirby Hughes	
BEDS		Donna Davis
FINRELS		
MGTIB	David Duhon	
MKTFM		Brigitte Burgess
TM	Catherine Price	

ACC=accounting; BEDS=business economics and decision sciences; FINRELS =finance, real estate and legal studies; MGTIB=management and international business; MKTFM=marketing and fashion merchandising; TM=tourism management

As Table 1 indicates, three of the six new departments already know who their leader will be in 2009-10, and two of these are looking at CoB insiders. In fact, David Duhon is already the CoB's management chair, while Catherine Price has been around USM's tourism management department for a long, long time. Neither of these is particularly strong either – neither Duhon nor Price has ever published in an A-level academic journal, and the two reportedly have more than 40 years combined academic service behind them.

In terms of two of the remaining three open seats, speculation (sources') has it that Donna Davis and Brigitte Burgess, two other current USMers, will be taking over BEDS and MKTFM in July-09. Burgess is yet another *associate* prof, while Davis has been promising to retire for quite some time now. According to sources, Nail's deanhood is hanging on these six new positions, and, so far at least, there have been more squandered opportunities than genuine success stories. Fortunately for Nail there are still three remaining holes to fill. Thus, there is still time to steer away from the speculation and provide some real leadership. Yet with word that Drexel University's Jacqueline Garner, Nail's top choice to head the BEDS, wants no part of USM's CoB, it appears that all hope is fading fast.

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Dear usmnews.net:

In response to your 04/06/09 piece entitled **New Year's Rockin' Chairs: Where CoB Dean Lance Nail's Plan to Hire 6 New Chairs Stands Today**, is there a theme emerging

from Dean Nail's selections? Taking the Gwen Pate and Ken Zantow hires into account, the certainty of a Donna Davis hire, the default to Cathy Price, and the continuation of Dave Duhon, is the answer that Dr. Nail perceives these people as administrators because it is their highest and best use? This group can be described as not productive in research, and for the most part, not outstanding in the classroom.

Keep up the good work.

[Name withheld by request]