

The CoB's New Department

For the past several years the CoB has been organized into three academic departments – Management and Marketing, Economics, Finance, and International Business, and the School of Accountancy and Information Systems. Apparently, there has been a fourth department added to that set, and the new addition is a clandestine one. Below is a screen shot of new Assistant Professor of Marketing Charles Michael Wittmann's information from the USM directory. Notice his "Department".

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying the University of Southern Mississippi's directory page. The address bar shows the URL: http://www.usm.edu/contacts/search.php?f_recno=373. The page header includes the university's name and a Google search bar. A navigation menu lists various categories: PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND PARENTS, CURRENT STUDENTS AND PARENTS, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS, FACULTY AND STAFF, and VISITORS. The main content area is titled "Record Contents:" and displays the following information for Charles Michael Wittmann:

- Name: Charles Michael Wittmann
- Department: Alt. Delivery Instr. Business
- Title: Assistant Professor
- Office Phone: 601-266-4627
- P.O. Box: 05091
- E-mail: Mike.Wittmann@usm.edu

Below this information is an "ONLINE CAMPUS DIRECTORY" section with instructions on how to search for contact information. It includes a search form with a "Name:" field, a "Search Type:" section with checkboxes for "Student" and "Faculty/Staff", and "Search" and "Clear" buttons. At the bottom of the page, it says "Information for Faculty, Staff, and Students concerning the Campus Directory".

Apparently the CoB now has a new department – "Alt. Delivery Instr. Business". Wittmann's "Department" sounds a lot more like a title than a department. We can only assume (absent any communication from the "leadership" of the college) that Wittmann is the Alternative Delivery Instructor for Business. Since there has been no faculty vote on creating such a position or function within the CoB, the Odds and Ends Department here at usmpride.com is perplexed.

When Wittmann was hired, a condition of his employment was that Principles of Marketing be approved for online delivery. Apparently Wittmann shared Harold Doty's penchant for avoidance of students. Is Wittmann actually employed in the CoB, or is he a quasi-business, quasi-LEC offering from Harold Doty to Cynthia Moore? Wittman's "Department", if interpreted correctly, could indicate that he will be in charge of putting several business courses online, as he currently is doing with Principles of Marketing. Could Principles of Management be next? Will we see Wittmann as the instructor of record for Principles of Economics, should no Economics faculty step forward to carry out Doty's wishes? Given the lack of academic rigor espoused by Harold Doty, only time will tell.