

Seven Questions

Interviews with Current/Former CoB Faculty about Life in and Outside the CoB

This begins a new series here at USMNEWS.net where current and former CoB profs are interviewed by USMNEWS.net. Their answers to *seven questions* promise to be both informative and interesting. Let's jump right in with *seven questions* for a current CoBer:

Q1. How have things changed around the CoB and Greene Hall since the arrival of new dean Lance Nail?

There is a more positive feeling in the College that there can finally be a break with the past. There may finally be a real merit system that is in no way tied to what butt you kiss. The do-nothing butt-kissers will be weeded out at third year reviews and at tenure time.

Q2. In your view, how has Nail been received by colleagues in the CoB?

Colleagues who do their jobs seem to like him; those who want the status quo do not like him. Dr. Nail is not about staying the same; he is about changing and making progress. Changes cannot be made with or by the same old people who have caused most of the problems in the CoB through the years.

Q3. What is your guess as to the direction Nail wants to move the CoB?

Nail wants to be more of a research college with both more quantity and more quality. He wants the research to be taken more seriously like it is at other - more respected - colleges. He wants more professionalism: dress more professionally for classes, do your job and do it well, act like a professional at all times, and do not treat this job like it is a part-time job.

Q4. How do you think Nail's fundraising structure will rate compare to those of former business deans like Harold Doty and Bill Gunther?

Doty has no inter-personal skills so he did not accomplish much. Gunther only wanted a new building. Nail seems to want to progress on many different fronts and he is not willing to "sell-out" one area for another.

Q5. How do you feel Nail's presence will affect hiring processes in the CoB?

I think he will demand we get as high a prospect as possible. The "good old boy" hires will end. There will be a focus on research potential in addition to teaching potential.

Q6. How are staff receiving their new dean?

Far better than the previous deans. Nail includes staff in his plans, and sees the need for professional development for the staff as well as faculty. He does not see staff as non-team members. He knows how valuable they are.

Q7. Is there any sense that the presence of a new dean has heightened the work ethic in the college?

Yes, but not for "malcontents" such as George Carter and Harold Doty. They seem to be meeting privately with others to try to undermine Nail. They do not want to see any progress because it will diminish their roles in the CoB. Some faculty will never participate, but overall the work ethic seems to have improved.