

# 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 get to it with *seven questions* for a former CoBer:

**Q1.** As a former business faculty at USM, how would you describe the CoB of recent years?

USM's COB has got to be one of the most *anti-intellectual* environments across all of the landscape of *higher learning*. That environment has been fostered from the top down by the likes of Harold Doty and Farhang Niroomand and others. If you are looking for a place to land and regroup out of grad school, the COB might be okay now, at least under new dean Lance Nail.

**Q2.** What advice would you give current CoB faculty looking to leave the CoB?

First of all, I would suggest considering whether or not it's time to leave. By that I mean that the *new* dean appears to be doing the kind of job that the College has needed from that position in a long, long time. Of course, if you want to leave anyway, make sure your publication record is current and solid. Everyone knows that. Also, from what I've learned from my experiences in recent years, I will never again *not have* my C.V. circulating in the job market, whether I am interested in leaving my current position or not. That is the best advice I could give any hard-working current member of USM's business college.

**Q3.** In your experience, how is the CoB looked upon by the outside world?

It's interesting. In every one-on-one conversation that I have had with a business school dean over the past few years, and I've had a fair number, it was revealed to me that the outside world knew full well about the accreditation troubles that the COB experienced under Doty and Niroomand. And about 80% of them referred to the most recent trouble as "AACSB probation." Their term, not mine. All in all, I don't think the outside world views USM's business college favorably, or even close to it.

**Q4.** What is professional life like for you now?

Much more fulfilling than it has been in a while. Just the other day a colleague emerged from his office to tell people that he had hit an A journal. I and others were happy and congratulatory. It is good for our institution and a motivator to those around him. This is the kind of setting anyone would hope for.

**Q5.** You mentioned the CoB's new dean, Lance Nail, a moment ago. What do you know about him?

I saw his C.V. on the Internet when it was announced that he had taken the top job at USM. It is impressive. He should have no difficulty setting a high bar on achievement for faculty in the COB. Whether they react to that new, high bar properly is anyone's guess. My guess is they won't, at least not at first.

**Q6.** What short-term changes could Nail make to improve the CoB?

For one, he could set off to reverse the current annual evaluation process and bring back the dean's conference room roundtable meeting. You can't have "chair only" annual evaluations when your chairs are George Carter, David Duhon and Steven Jackson. Another short-term fix would be to get some proper scholars on the T&P committee. As far as long-term projects, annual summer support would be a move that needs to be made. I heard this has been partially addressed by money from central administration.

**Q7.** Do you keep up with former colleagues in the CoB?

Sure. I know people are looking forward to improvements under Nail. I hope they come sooner rather than later.