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Accounting faculty in USM's b-school recently heard (via e-mail) from their new leader, Kirby E. "Skip" Hughes. In his communiqué, Hughes noted a number of activities that have been ongoing involving some of the CoB's accounting faculty. A summary of these follows:

- Former School of Accounting director Roderick Posey recently received the 2009 Educator of the Year Award from the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants. According to Hughes, a number of Posey's former students were in attendance.
- A number of CoB accountants have mentioned to Hughes that their offices in JAG are much too small. Hughes agreed, noting that the industry average is 150 square feet, which far exceeds spaces in JAG. As a short-term response, Hughes is moving the aforementioned Posey and another former director, Robert Smith, into vacant second floor (JAG) offices, which are a bit larger than those in accounting's own suite. These are the offices previously occupied by the CoB's fashion merchandising faculty.
- Hughes relayed to CoB accountants that decision sciences faculty are no longer paired (administratively) with accounting. He also informed them that when he interviewed with CoB dean Lance Nail for the accounting chair's position at USM back in 2008-09 he received support for placing an accounting information systems course in the ACC core. Hughes also revealed that Nail effected a search, though one that failed, for a new AIS faculty, also back in 2008-09. As a result of that failure, Hughes informed the accountants that Arthur Sorochinsky had been hired as a visiting professor to teach AIS and perhaps other courses. Sorochinsky, however, is *not* an accountant – according to Hughes, he is a finance guy.

It goes without saying that these tidbits are all interesting. This report concentrates on only one of these – the second one. Smith is an *associate* professor, and someone sources indicate may spend an academic "lifetime" in that role. Given that there are other full professors besides Posey, it is obvious that seniority played no role in assigning the larger offices. It is also the case that research productivity played little, if any, role in assigning these second floor offices. While it may be true that the CoB's fashion merchandising faculty, namely Erin Drake and Gallayanee Yaoyuneyong, are struggling on the research front (see the USMNEWS.net Archives) and do not deserve

larger offices, there is no evidence that either Posey or Smith is even a top research producer in accounting, much less the CoB as a whole. Posey is now *infamous* for his "more than 100" accounting publications claim (on the USM website), despite the fact that Internet searches fail to reveal more than 5 pubs to his credit. Smith, on the other hand, now makes his residence in Atlanta, GA, joining a growing number of CoB faculty who are commuting a very long distance to work in the CoB (see the USMNEWS.net Archives for related stories). Nothing about this choice (or these choices) supports a healthy research agenda.