

Readers Respond . . . See Below Special Report

What do we Know about SG-L?

CoB Alternative Learning Coordinator Sonia Gaines-Littles set off a virtual firestorm with her 1-April-09 e-mail deriding CoB faculty for dropping in unannounced to visit with Messrs Lance Nail and/or Joseph Peyrefitte. The reader's response, [Wrong Message, . . .](#), of 13-April-09 more than took Nail, Gaines-Littles -- the entire Nail administration of the CoB -- to task for its entitled, if not *elitist*, attitude regarding the public service role of the b-school dean at USM. Since 1-April-09, a number of USMNEWS.net readers have requested more information about Gaines-Littles, the [incident](#) itself, and the fallout since the incident throughout the hallways of Joseph Greene and beyond.

This report brings to light a bit more info about Gaines-Littles, Nail's executive assistant who also serves as the CoB's Alternative Learning Coordinator. She was hired by the Harold Doty administration of the CoB (2003-07), and retained by both the interim administration of Alvin Williams (2007-08) and the new Lance Nail administration (2008-present). Gaines-Littles is a graduate of the [University of California -- Santa Cruz](#), and according to her [10-Nov-07 post](#) to [thespin](#), the opinion blog of *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, Gaines-Littles is fond of UC-SC's mascot, the "Banana Slug."

Sonia Gaines-Littles Says:
November 10th, 2007 at 4:09 pm

[another](#) out-of-state [CoBer](#)?

I am an alum of UC-Santa Cruz and currently reside in the New Orleans area. The Banana Slug has been a cherished mascot for the University for years. As a biologist, the slug is a quite unique staple of our campus along with the deer, coyotes, foxes and mountain lions. Our campus is unique and different... and I LOVE IT!!!The mascot was selected by the student body and therefore represents OUR voice. The physical campus is a peaceful and tranquil place that most universities will never be able to achieve. So, while the best you can come up with is to ridicule something that you have not a clue about, do your research. (As most of my fellow alums say -"SLUG LIIIIIFE!!!!)
SLUG_4_LIFE

Gaines-Littles is no stranger to controversy in USM's b-school. Many faculty associate her with the controversial Doty-era policy that prevented CoB faculty from sending "All CoB" e-mails through the USM Internet server. That Doty-era policy remains in effect, and is the source of CoB-wide e-mails that come under the cover of Gaines-Littles' ALC desk on the second floor of JAG. The linked report, [Woe is ECO](#), offers an example of that cover and Gaines-Littles role in providing CoB faculty with information of college-wide relevance. Gaines-Littles' role as Alternative Learning Coordinate (ALC) has provided enough

controversy to make her the subject of investigative reports here at USMNEWS.net, such as [Two Positions are Better than One](#), which is subtitled "Is Sonia Gaines-Littles Putting Together a Job Snowball?"

It is difficult to imagine a staffer being so ensconced in, and part of, university politics in the way Gaines-Littles appears to be, however sources indicate that she seems to value her place in the CoB's political wars, particularly when it puts her in the position of bossing other administrative assistants and staffers in JAG.

Snippets from Readers

"As the 'ALC', I think [Sonia Gaines-Littles] is supposed to be pro-active; no evidence of that. If you force her do something, she probably will do it - what is the point of that? Further: mini-session courses are now out of favor (again), most online classes are in-load, and we do not teach any unusual extra courses in strange times, so what does she do for the extra pay as ALC?"

"Where in [Sonia Gaines-Littles] job description does it say she is CoB staff supervisor?"

"She may conclude her telephone conversations with 'Joy,'" but she's very hard to deal with in real life."

"Don't forget that she participated, at least tangentially," in the firing and attempted firing of current and former CoB faculty by sending the now infamous 'get down here' e-mails from [former CoB dean Harold] Doty."

"How dare [Sonia Gaines-Littles] not respond to email requests for information from faculty or staff. She is famous for not responding to emails when she does not want to deal with an issue."