

## The Last Paradigm Shift

As Donna Davis heads into retirement (phased or otherwise), it is increasingly clear that she is no longer a player in the College of Business. Realistically she has less and less department for which to be Chair with Economics being retired and the remainder shifted to CoAL, and MIS shifted to FINREBL on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The point is for longer than she has been a chair, and even longer than she was an administrator at all Dr. Davis has enjoyed influence with Dean Lance Nail beyond her title, status, or position. What happened? Some have speculated that with family health issues Donna has grown more ready for retirement and less interested in the blood sport known as academic politics. Others have opined that she is tired of fighting for MIS when most of the other MIS faculty members do not fight and are probably not worth fighting for. Some others have speculated that she has less influence now because no one now listens to her on issues that are *fait accompli*, such as economics disappearing from the CoB. The most insightful answer is that Donna has – for good or bad depending on your point of view – cashed in all her markers she ever earned from Lance Nail trying to save specific economists, economics in general, specific MIS faculty, and the MIS discipline in general. While Davis has always had the ability to beat a dead horse, she apparently has lost her sense of when to move on and which battles are worth fighting for. When (if?) she returns post-retirement she will be placed in Accounting, a place where Skip surely does not like to be publicly questioned about his decisions. Her return may also come at a time after yet another CoB reorganization has occurred the net affect of which is to make Skip's role more dominant than it is now. For the positives of her career we at usmnews.net wish her a safe, smooth, and easy transition into retirement.