

The Mythical “Center” Devolves Again

The Center for Financial Services, raised by Michael Melton, ignored and then trashed by the team of John Clark and Harold Doty, has now been made of less importance once again. Now under Dean Nail and Skip Hughes, Director of Accounting, it (the room jokingly referred to for years as “the Center”) is now a place for Finance **and** Accounting students. It is generally supposed that this was done to placate Skip (who apparently needs a *lot* of that) and to try in any way possible to make the room look used. When forced to do something, John Clark forced graduate assistants to sit in there as their “work”; this was the total contribution of Clark for the Center for his over \$10,000 stipend, every semester course reductions, and other resource consumption. In the recent past the Center was so little used that even the dome people, who seldom darken the CoB doors, knew it was really a pleasantly arranged storage area. The word spread as if for free food that there was this “lab” where you could use computers and printers (including paper and toner) for free. While not officially sanctioned, it clearly upped the usage of the space, though quite obviously not for any intended or advertised use. Now, trying to lessen the illicit uses of the space, there are reportedly warning signs posted that identification will be checked if you are not a known finance or accounting student.

This is another CoB farce. This situation needs to be realistically looked at and a positive use found for the space and the resources funneled into it. As the budget dollars rapidly shrink, this becomes increasingly important to do. If this seemingly sacred cow is “sponsored” by someone, then this someone needs to step-up and sponsor it into something worth having; if this old cow is ready for the slaughterhouse, then please get on with it. It has been suggested by some that the southern part of the first floor should be converted into more of a modern, useable showplace. Since the undergraduate services employees will soon be reduced in number, and since that area sits opposite of the Center, why not lose a couple of classrooms to make that entire area on par with the business honors house? The College of Business *can* do worse, but isn’t it time it tries to do better than that?