

The Top 10 CoB Stories of 2011

By Duane Cobb

Each year at about this time I provide USMNEWS.net *my* top ten news items involving USM's business school for the year. This is Part 1 in that countdown for the top CoB stories of 2011.

10. Jonathan Williams Bloat — Jonathan Williams was hired as a visiting professor of business at USM. Shortly thereafter, CoB dean Lance Nail had a hand in convincing the Martha Saunders administration to [hire Williams as](#) the institution's new chief sustainability officer (CSO). In doing so, Nail assisted in growing the central administration at USM – a bloat that some in USM's faculty senate and beyond have since become concerned about. As new USM interim provost Denis Wiesenburg told faculty senators on 2-Dec-2011, there is a major imbalance in the budget, favoring administrative services, at USM these days. Well, part of that imbalance is with the new CSO.

9. Farooq Malik Leaves the CoB — Shortly before the start of the 2011-12 academic year, CoB associate professor of finance Farook Malik [departed the faculty](#) for a new post overseas. Although in the CoB for a relatively short time, Malik became one of the organization's most political faculty members.



Farooq Malik

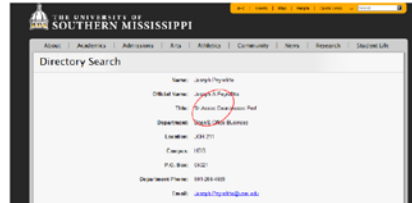
Malik was a major player in the CoB's infamous "Black Tuesday" episode in 2006. He also benefitted from what some referred to as the CoB's "early promotion and raise program." Many remember how former EFIB chairman George Carter converted Malik from an assistant professor of economics to an assistant professor of finance – a move that resulted in Malik's salary rising from \$75,000 to \$95,000 in the blink of an eye – in return for Malik's support in the mobbing of various CoB faculty near the end of former CoB dean Harold Doty's 2003-07 reign.

8. Joseph Peyrefitte is Seniorized — Joseph Peyrefitte, one of the CoB's associate deans, was promoted to *senior* associate dean in 2011. That move represented in large part additional involvement on the part of the CoB in the administrative bloat program that has been underway for some time in the Martha Saunders administration of the institution.

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Peyrefitte Promoted to *Senior AD* in the CoB

HATTIESBURG – Judging by the amount of information now pouring into USMNEWS.net offices, it appears as though members of the USM community are going to be *even more* vigilant during 2011-12 than they have been in prior years. The latest report to USMNEWS.net indicates that Joseph Peyrefitte has been promoted to *senior associate dean* in the Lance Nail administration of USM's b-school. That tip is confirmed via the insert below, taken from USM's online directory. The highlighted area reflects Peyrefitte's new title of *senior associate dean*.



Sources tell USMNEWS.net that this new title for Peyrefitte is likely a part of a restructuring in the CoB that is going to lead to a larger central administration, much like that in the CoAL under former dean Denise von Herrmann. Peyrefitte's associate dean's salary stood at \$116,250 during the 2008-09 academic year, or just after the most recent merit raise year at USM. Thus, it is likely that Peyrefitte will pick up a raise with this latest promotion. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that, after the forthcoming 1-Sept-2011 merit/equity raise at USM, Peyrefitte's salary will likely reside somewhere between \$125,000 and \$130,000, although there is some possibility that it will exceed the upper end of this range. Like others, this move only increases the USM community's concern over what USM provost Robert Lyman refers to as administrative bloat.

Some speculated that the change of titles likely provided Peyrefitte with a raise, thus representing a sneaky way for the Lance Nail administration of the CoB to provide one of its own with additional financial support during tough fiscal times in Mississippi.