

Waiting for an (Interim) Dean at the College of Business

On August 15, 2012, Lance Nail is scheduled to begin his new roll as Dean of the Rawls College of Business at Texas Tech. In the meantime, the faculty at the College of Business at Southern Miss is waiting to hear who will be the transitional leader for the college. So far no name has been announced by the former Transitional Executive Officer, now Interim President Aubrey Lucas. However, that has not prevented the faculty from throwing out possible names. Here is a list of possible names we are hearing from the CoB:

Joseph Peyrefitte, Senior Associate Dean and Associate Professor. Joseph Peyrefitte was promoted to *senior* associate dean in 2011. At various times during his tenure as associate dean, Peyrefitte was viewed as the "inside" dean largely responsible for day to day operations of the CoB. Rather than rock the boat, many believe Interim President will once again change Peyrefitte's title to "Interim Dean".

Leisa Flynn, Chairman, Department of Marketing. Flynn, a 2010 outside hire by soon-to-be former Dean Nail, was widely viewed a big gain by Nail. Flynn was a research productive full professor from Florida State, a Tier 2 location. Flynn appears to be generally respected, but given only a couple of years in administration, it would be a big step up.

Kirby E. ("Skip") Hughes, Director, School of Accountancy. Like Flynn, Hughes was an outside hire by Nail. Unlike Flynn, Hughes came to Southern Miss after failing to secure a promotion to full professor at LSU. Widely viewed as having fallen into the SoA routine of publishing in vanity and low quality journals, he has failed to make many friends within the college. Coupled with a high-handed military style, he is viewed as a dark horse.

David Duhon, Chairman, Department of Management and International Business. Duhon, was the management professor who required "letter of agreement" [assistance](#) from former Dean Harold Doty to achieve promotion to full. While many believe this alone should disqualify him from any consideration, he has not only been named department chair, he has been awarded the Kaetsu International Business professorship, even though he is not an international business professor. If Duhon is appointed interim dean, it

will be a clear message that Interim-President Lucas will fall back on old-school cronyism.