

***usmpride.com News* DEVELOPING STORY**

HATTIESBURG --- A first-time (and unexpected) source dropped by the *usmpride.com News* offices and let us know that a plan was in the works to eliminate international economics (ECO 336) from the CoB core curriculum. According to the source, ECO 336 would be replaced with an option to select any of the CoB's "international" course offerings (e.g., international marketing, international finance, etc.). Such a plan, if forthcoming, would likely pass by a very wide margin given that it would benefit every unit in the CoB, with the exception of economics. According to this source, one of the sponsors of this plan to change the core curriculum is none other than Stephen Bushardt, professor of management. Readers will recall that Bushardt was one of the co-sponsors of the plan to change the CoB's annual evaluation process - a plan that passed during the December 2006 faculty meeting.

Unlike the plan to change the evaluation process, which did not go through the CoB Faculty Handbook Committee, this new plan will have to be put before the CoB's Undergraduate Programs Committee (assuming Bushardt does not first sponsor another resolution to change the CoB Faculty Handbook in a way that allows curriculum changes to be made without UPC approval). However, one source indicates that the tally within the EFIB on this issue would be a close one. Those in the EFIB that are reported as being likely supporters of the resolution are said to mirror the view of other CoB faculty (who we have spoken with about this issue) that the change would be positive.

Look for more details on this development as they occur.