

## Re-arranging the Deck Chairs

### University Committees

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My Executive Cabinet and I recently discussed the status of several of our University Standing Committees. As a result of this discussion, we decided that it is time to conduct a full audit of all of our Standing Committees. I have asked Mary Dayne Gregg to take the lead on that project. No doubt, a few of the standing committees and/or their purposes may need to be restructured and some current ad hoc committees may need to be upgraded to standing committees. I expect this audit to improve both our system of committees and the opportunity for faculty, staff and students to serve the University in a more effective manner.

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Nice job, Martha. We have been expecting this. When in doubt, look busy with (you hope) important-sounding busy work to spin into “great news at Southern Miss”. This is a president’s version of re-organizing departments for a new dean; it is something only you can do, no one can stop you, it is a resume filler, and usually amounts to very little positive gain. Using Mary Dayne Gregg, recent Alumni Association Hall of Fame inductee, to head this is brilliant: while slightly better than asking your husband to do it, you “ask” your own personal assistant to do it. There is neutral transparency at its best. Since everyone now assumes you have decided what this “audit” will conclude, why not save some time and announce the conclusions now? By the way, have you noticed how well companies in the news fared when they used such friendly auditors?