

People: make no mistake about it, the Computer Science Department is being eliminated. The claims by UF and the Dean of Engineering that this is just a reorganization are little more than administrative smoke-blowing. As a long-time computer science professor, I'm not buying it. Let me provide an analogy: suppose you were the chef at a nice restaurant, and one day the owner tells you he's converting the restaurant into a MacDonald's. But not to worry, you can continue to cook there, only without any of your staff. And, he points out, you'll actually be serving more customers! This is what the Dean is claiming about Computer Science.

As for all the kerfuffle about athletics being "completely independent" of academics, and about its being profitable: give me a break. The athletic association (UAA) could not exist without the university. Among other things, all of its players (unpaid, of course) are students. Separating the athletic budget is a nice accounting trick, which allows UF to pay their football coach \$4M per year (yes, that's right) without much oversight. For those of you who wrote that UAA "donates" some of its profits back to the university each year: right.

Obviously, the decision to increase the athletic budget to its current stratospheric level of almost \$100M wasn't directly connected to the decision to eliminate Computer Science. But the contrast illustrates – accurately, I think – the priorities of the University of Florida.