

Carter's *Coup*: 2½ Days in the Making?

Recent reports at USMPRIDE have described the events in the CoB's EFIB department on Tuesday, September 19, 2006. As has been suggested, EFIB Chair George Carter resigned from the elected 3-person governance committee in a way that circumvented the department's right to an Option 2 governance structure. In doing so, Carter may have violated the Faculty Handbook, which, as some would suggest, is something he's done in the past (e.g., the Trellis Green lawsuit).

It seems worthwhile to consider an additional twist to this particular story. It is now well-documented that Carter was missing in action for the second half of the work week of September 11-15, 2006. Carter took the afternoon of 9/13 off, and was missing entirely on 9/14 and 9/15 of 2006. Although it was reportedly due to a wedding trip, consider the possibility that Carter, the "company man," took 2½ days of company time to plan his 9/19 *coup*.

First, there was definitely a lot of planning and brainstorming involved. According to Carter's own statement, "University counsel" was even consulted, though no written opinion was obtained from Carter. Second, CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand arrived at the meeting with two proxies from the Coast campus, even though no one was supposed to know what the meeting was about. There was no agenda for the meeting, and the invitation from Carter was only three sentences long.

Third, sources are now reporting that William Gunther (Professor of Economics) was discussing a re-vote of EFIB's faculty governance with others in the JGH hallways on the morning of the meeting (9/19). Professor Charles Sawyer was seen on more than one occasion in private discussions with Carter prior to the meeting. A number of untenured assistant professors also had private meetings with Carter on the morning of 9/19/06.

It seems to us that Carter used the last 2½ days of the September 11-15 work week to develop his plan, and that he spent some of 9/18 and the morning of 9/19 arranging for the conclusion that he wanted. Carter made no secret about what he wanted. During the 9/19 meeting, when asked directly by finance professor Tom Lindley what he (Carter) wanted, Carter replied "Option 3 . . . Chair only." That Carter may have used most, if not all, of a full work week, at a cost of \$125,000/52 = \$2,404 (approx.) to Mississippi taxpayers, only adds insult to injury.

Carter has been down this road before. This foray could end on an even worse note.