

31st & Pearl

A Collective Sigh

Former CoB dean Harold Doty's stint in USM's College of Business has come to an end. That stint has been nothing short of tumultuous from the jump, beginning with the infamous individual faculty interviews in 2003, and ending with the failed attempt at AACSB re-accreditation in 2007. Now, Doty is the University of Texas – Tyler's problem, and as he prepares to leave Hattiesburg for the east Texas locale you can almost hear a collective sigh throughout Joseph Greene Hall.

Doty's departure also represents a first for a former dean of USM's b-school. Other former deans, like ECO's William Gunther, have stuck around USM to the very end, failing to land a new post as a business school dean elsewhere. Not Doty. To avoid such a fate he (Doty) called in every favor on the deck, leaning heavily on UT-T's Peter Fos and Gregg Lassen, former USM CoH dean and former USM VP for finance, respectively. Still, Doty's determination was good for him, and for CoB faculty. The two will now, mercifully, part ways.

You can bet that USMNEWS.net reporters will continue to follow the Doty trail in and around the College of Business & Technology at UT-T. The faculty there can expect a bumpy ride over the following months and (maybe) years, even if accreditation is not part of the equation. If it is, hold on to your hats, UT-Ters, and your peer and aspirant institutions. If you leave the selection of those up to Doty, who knows what you'll end up with? And when it comes to the various AACSB "definitions" – let's not even go there. Just thinking about Doty, USM accountant Charles Jordan, Central Missouri State University, and "without proper citation" brings back a long, institutional nightmare.

Finally, a word of advice. If you (UT-Ters) are finding that the CoBers' collective sigh is your collective groan, then it would be a good idea to begin your preparation for Doty's arrival early. Check out what the latest *BizEd* has to offer, spend some time on USMNEWS.net, and practice honing your hide-and-seek skills. A lot of the Doty game is in learning about his movements and staying one step ahead of him. Luckily for all involved, understanding the CoB's experience is, via USMNEWS.net, a great advantage.

31st & Pearl is a series housed at usmnews.net that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.