

31st & Pearl

“Sixth Year Review” = “Probation”

Read the title of this column. Now read it again. No matter how hard CoB Dean Harold Doty or his sycophants argue against it, the statement is true: “Sixth Year Review” = “Probation”.

The Doty spin machine kicked into high gear Tuesday afternoon as M&M/FM chair Barry Babin told a group of faculty gathered for an impromptu meeting that “we’re still accredited; they’re just coming back next year.” That’s next year, as in four years earlier than they should be returning to Hattiesburg. Schools that pass the accreditation visit get another review in 5 years. The USM CoB gets another in only 1 year.

As a USMPRIDE.com writer has pointed out, to give USM’s CoB a “Sixth Year Review”, the team must have had concerns that endangered the quality of education provided by the CoB. In a state where institutions of higher learning are charged with providing more educational opportunities, one can’t help but think the IHL assumed that the quality of offerings would at least stay constant. According to AACSB, the CoB’s quality has slipped under Doty’s watch. Is that a good thing for Mississippi residents?

Emails will fly. Meetings will be held. Spin will be applied. Here are the facts: the AACSB visit team found that the CoB had shortcomings in its operation that were significant enough that a review team is visiting again in 1 – not 5 – years. That’s the definition of “Sixth Year Review.” If you think that sounds a lot like the SACS probation period USM served only two years ago, then you’re correct. Why?

Because to AACSB, “Sixth Year Review” = “Probation”.

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