

31st & Pearl

CoB Rising

In the past several weeks USMNEWS.net has been re-running a number of reports highlighting the demise of the CoB's economics unit. As part of that, a report about George Carter's views on subjective grading has been re-run on multiple occasions. There's a good reason for it – the report shows Carter's constantly shifting moral compass, his disingenuous nature. But, that report also highlights another aspect of USM's b-school. That is, how similar behavior predicts, not inhibits, one's ascension.

Take that particular report, for example. In it junior management faculty Joseph Peyrefitte explains to the entire CoB faculty how he combines SACS and AACSB "rubrics" and his own grading policies into one so that his semester is pleasant and worry-free. Doing so minimizes the time that Peyrefitte has to put into each class during each semester. Though this sounds bad, it didn't prevent Peyrefitte from ascending to Associate Dean for *Academic* Affairs in USM's b-school.

Another prominent in the report, Donna Davis, suggested then that it was okay to bend rubrics downward into lower grades reported to students, even if students are led to believe that the rubrics will count. At the time she made those remarks Davis was the CoB's AACSB Assessment Coordinator. Years later, however, she would become the Grad Programs Director, presumably a position that often advocates *for* students. Finally, there's George Carter, the CoB's so-called ethicist-in-residence who advised sociologist Frank Glamser to take his (Glamser's) complaints against then-USM VP Angeline Dvorak to her boss, USM president Shelby Thames. The decision to do so got Glamser dismissed. That's Carter, "the company man" who stated that not following stated grading policies was problematic, yet who himself later turned around and did the same when grading his own faculty. Carter was the chair of EFIB on *two separate occasions*.

CoB history shows that bad behavior is *not* something that prevents one from ascending to the highest levels of CoB management. No, it might actually speed the process along. Some say that's *the* reason the CoB is where it is today – down almost 20 faculty from 2003 levels and devoid of any respect from just about every non-CoB corner of USM. That's a shame.

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