

31st & Pearl

Do You Want to Hear that You Got Me Fired?

During a heated exchange after the conclusion of the May 2007 CoB faculty meeting, the usmnews.net editor told former Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand that he (the editor) wanted to know why Niroomand *resigned* his post a month before. To that request Niroomand responded with the question that also poses as the title of this column. Perhaps it's telling that, in response to a request to state why he *resigned*, Niroomand responded with his own question about getting *fired*.

Now, about three months after Niroomand's resignation, we would still like to hear from Niroomand whether he (Niroomand) was *fired* or *resigned*. The official word from USM is *resigned*. If so, we would like to know more about why that happened. And, we want much more than former USM Provost Jay Grimes' explanation – that Niroomand had been trying to step down from the position for months. Apparently, having a letter from Niroomand dated 1 March 2007 stating as much is all the proof Grimes needs. We would like to hear more.

To hear Niroomand tell it, he (Niroomand) has been trying to leave the post since 1999 or 2000, but neither former CBA Dean William Gunther nor former CoB Dean Harold Doty would allow it. This comment is from the same man who always seemed to enjoy bullying faculty – so much so that many CoB faculty refer to him as “attack dog” still to this day. Doty and Niroomand resigned together on 9 April 2007. Just days before Doty “informed” one faculty member that he (Doty) was going to make “some changes in this building [Greene Hall].” This sounds more like a man on a mission than someone on the cusp of resigning. Now, Doty's words seem prophetic in a twisted sense, and his empty threats paint the picture of impotence. As for Niroomand, now seems like as good a time as any to begin his memoirs. They would surely be quite popular amongst CoB faithful and usmnews.net readers.