

# 31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl

## *Fait Accompli* Governance

The term “*fait accompli*” may contain most of the letters needed to spell “faculty,” but the terms “faculty governance” and “*fait accompli* governance” couldn’t be further apart. This distinction is an important one because USM’s College of Business is rapidly moving to the *fait accompli* governance end of the spectrum. Whether it’s the consolidation of faculty, or worse yet – the termination of faculty – the CoB’s move to a governance-by-irreversible deeds model is picking up speed with each passing day.

Last week has already shown two marvelous examples of *fait accompli* governance in the CoB. First, we learn that CoB faculty will be taking an “up or down” vote on a *new* (revised) set of tenure and promotion guidelines. From what sources are telling us, these are packaged up and ready for faculty approval in late August or early September of 2007. Of course, AACSB encourages faculty governance, so Ted Cummings and the rest will have to be sold on the CoB’s new *fait accompli* governance approach. From what we hear, that may not be too difficult.

The second example comes from the CoB’s vaunted EFIB department, wherein chairman George Carter updated (last week) his faculty on a search for a new Director for the Center for Economics Education that they (EFIB faculty) didn’t even know was taking place. EFIB faculty need not worry, however, Carter has taken care of things so thoroughly that the search will be closed in 36 hours, if not less. Carter could apparently learn some *fait accompli* governance lessons from Interim CoB Dean Alvin Williams. As the usmnews.net editor asked just this morning: Why did Carter even bother to tell his faculty that a search was nearing completion? The Williams Administration appears to be tight-lipped about almost everything. What a way to head into 2007-08!

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