

31st & Pearl

Doty-Niroomand Resignations: Forced or Voluntary?

The 10 April 2007 resignations of CoB Dean D. Harold Doty and CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand came as a shock to many business faculty at USM. As USM Provost Jay Grimes ticked off all of the “reasons” given by Doty and Niroomand for their “voluntary” exits, many CoB faculty and staff did the translations in their heads. These guys had to go.

In the case of Doty, Grimes said that he (Doty) had been thinking about getting out of the Dean’s office for a while. Yeah, right. Doty was once the boy who dreamed of growing up to be the business dean at the University of South Florida, where he would live in that boomtown of Tampa. Sound like someone who would want to “go back to the faculty?” As for Niroomand, Grimes explained that he (Niroomand) has been trying to leave the job all year long, for health reasons, as well as to get back to teaching, back to his grant work, and to his “international journal.” To add to it, Grimes told faculty he (Grimes) had a letter from Niroomand dated 1 March 2007 indicating that he (Niroomand) wanted to leave. That standard of proof, plus 75¢, will get you a bag of chips.

Two main themes are now emerging from the eventful Tuesday of 10 April 2007 in the CoB. First, the general consensus of CoB faculty is that Grimes is not a high-caliber academic administrator. He stuttered and obfuscated his way through the few questions that were thrown at him. President-elect Martha Saunders would do well to scour the campus for his replacement as soon as her plane touches down in May. Second, the CoB’s new Interim Dean, Dr. Alvin Williams, faces a major uphill battle in getting the CoB turned around. AACSB will be coming back around in spring of 2008, and the pressure is on. Williams made a point to let the CoB know it had a lot of work to do between now and next spring. Let’s hope there’s enough left in the tank to get that work done.

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