

31st & Pearl

Restructuring Redux

Restructuring of the College is a topic of conversation in the CoB. Everyone believes logic dictates that what they want should happen under the next dean.

Accounting desperately wants to be by itself once again. That works well because no one wants to be with them. Where does that leaves MIS and Legal Studies? MIS is probably too small to be left alone. Some talk has it leaving the building for Computer Science. Some talk has it combining with Finance (with the return of Legal Studies) to be the abused step-children department. For that to happen, Finance would have to leave Economics and International Business, which undoubtedly would perk up both sides of the current department. That may also calm down hostility and other acts that could lead to more litigation.

Marketing and Management want to be their own separate worlds once again as well. If that happens, who will be blamed for problems that occur? Due to the lack of size, Fashion Merchandising needs to stay with Marketing, and if they do not leave for another College, Tourism Management should stay with Management.

A new dean could possibly gain a lot of goodwill points with CoB faculty members with such a restructuring. It would be a return to the past, but that is not always a bad idea. Given the current salary increases for department chairs, it would not cost much to gain not only faculty happiness, but also increase the number of workers the dean could count on to produce work on accreditation matters and other needed items.

These moves seem logical, would be welcomed by faculty (and probably staff), therefore they are likely doomed to failure. The hope exists that the new dean is strong enough to make necessary structural changes, place good people in the new chair (and associate dean) positions, and remove George Carter and the current interim administrators in favor of new people. Since Carter is the only chair that is not “interim”, it seems an easy and timely change to make. The new dean then begins with a new cast who should all be supportive of the new dean’s policies and procedures without being an anchor to the new dean.

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