

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

## Thames, Grimes Duped

Over the past three years, CoB Dean Harold Doty has played the "AACSB card" with USM's central administration every chance he could. He forced the economic development department out of the CoB because, as he described it, their continued presence jeopardized AACSB accreditation. Doty also withheld work on AACSB Standard #5 as a way of "leveraging" more funds from Grimes and Thames for the AACSB effort. Now we learn that about all Doty leveraged from that sorry act was a warm bowl of AACSB probation.

To hear Doty tell it, he dedicated "30 grand" toward support of the CoB's Assurance of Learning efforts. He also spent "30 grand" on the Kintera investigation -- an investigation aimed at discovering the net worth of the top 100 CoB alumni. Doty spent weeks and months maneuvering around Grimes, Thames and Ken Malone to have his (Doty's) wife set up as the Mississippi Council on Economic Education's lead educator. That's great, if you're a Doty.

The whole re-affirmation process looks now more like a scam than anything else. One of the CoB's AACSB leaders, management professor David Duhon, told CoB faculty on more than one occasion that the CoB was not only doing well in its re-affirmation campaign, it was "ahead of the curve" in many areas. Duhon actually suggested that the CoB was blazing trails for other schools to follow when it comes to adapting the new AACSB setup. Well, we know now that the CoB *was* ahead of the curve this whole time -- *that is, ahead of the curve when it comes to creating new ways to get placed on AACSB probation*. Copying another university's rubrics/definitions? Come on.

Yes, the past three years for the CoB have been little more than a game -- one that duped USM's central administration and other, more important constituencies. Now the CoB is bush league, Harold Doty is the head of a floundering deanship, and Susan Doty is the First Lady of AACSB Probation.