

31st & Pearl

What did Carter Know, and When Did He Know It?

"So . . . we can rise up about Doty, but the President can't fire Doty. It's an 'open secret' the [IHL] Board has told the President 'You don't fire anybody else.' We can't fire him [Doty], only the President can. So he's [Doty] not going to get fired until we get a new President. He's not going to get another job." (EFIB Chairman, George Carter, 2006)

The recent news report, entitled "By George . . . The Second," delivered some stunning new information about EFIB Chairman, George Carter's, 2006 thoughts on then-CoB Dean Harold Doty. Carter told us all something many of us would say we knew -- that is, after removing former USM professors Gary Stringer and Frank Glamser, former USM President, Shelby F. Thames, was informed by the Mississippi IHL not to fire anyone else. It's what came next from Carter that shocked the CoB: "So he's [Doty] not going to get fired until we get a new President."

There you have it -- Carter predicting, as far back as 2006, that then-CoB Dean Doty would be fired as soon as the IHL replaced Thames. How did Carter's prediction play out? Let's recount. First, the IHL replaced Thames in March of 2007, when Martha Saunders, then-President of UW - Whitewater, was hired. Upon being hired, Saunders was scheduled to take the reins in mid May of 2007. Next, in a surprise to the whole USM community, Harold Doty and his Associate Dean, Farhang Niroomand, "resigned" on 9 April 2007. What then-USM Provost, Jay Grimes, told CoB faculty and staff at a meeting on 10 April 2007 included this little gem: President-Elect Saunders had been "consulted" about the Doty-Niroomand "resignations" *as well as* about the elevation of marketing professor, Alvin Williams, to the post of Interim CoB Dean. Not only had she been "consulted," Grimes indicated that Saunders concurred with what had gone down in those early April 2007 days.

If you're thinking what we're thinking, then you're thinking that it appears as though Doty was "fired" on 9 April 2007, and possibly by President-Elect Saunders. You might also be thinking that Carter knew such a day was coming, and well back into 2006. Why doubt Carter. He has IHL connections, so he would know. Not only that, Carter was right about one other thing (above): "He's [Doty] not going to get another job." George, you're good Dude.

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