

31st & Pearl

Williams' Legacy Not Stellar . . . Not Even Close

Almost one year into Alvin Williams' 15-month Interim Dean stint, and it's safe to say that Williams' legacy is not a stellar one. And, that conclusion accounts for the CoB's clean bill of health from AACSB. Although that bit of news had virtually no chance of salvaging Williams' legacy in the CoB, even it would have been much better for Williams if it had arrived at its expected time -- April or May of 2008 -- rather than in late fall of 2007. At least that way, Williams could have exited on a higher note. But, it was not to be.

With nothing left on the docket, there's not even a chance left for Williams to arrive at stellar. In fact, the best thing he can do for his legacy now is to go into hibernation mode, much like former CBA Dean William Gunther did during his entire tenure as Dean (1998-2003). In lieu of hibernation, Williams often opts for the bizarre, like appointing *Donna Davis* to Director of Graduate Programs, or handing not one, but two, departments to *David Duhon*, who will head into the 2008-09 academic year as chair of both the Management & Marketing and Tourism Management departments.

One would think that, by holding a PhD in marketing, Williams would already know some of this stuff. Apparently not. One would also think that, because USM is his alma mater, Williams wouldn't seem to try so hard to harm the institution. But, after watching how EFIB Chair George Carter and others behave, there doesn't appear to be any connection between the way these CoB administrators treat the institution and the fact that they all graduated from it. Apparently, the lack of love for USM, the institution, is not restricted just to its current (and recent) students. But that's nothing new; look how former USM President, Shelby Thames, treated the place.

Williams will go down in CoB history, but not in a good way. Three years down the road from chairing MGT & MKT, times that were good for Williams, and only bad memories are being built. It all just goes to show how much easier tearing down is than building up. It's too bad for Williams, and Williams' legacy, that *he* was the one to remind us all of that fact.

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