31ˢᵗ & Pearl

A Long Year Ahead

The 2006-2007 academic year is barely underway and already it feels like it's three months old. Whether through mismanagement or malice, Dean Harold Doty has managed to make a mark on the CoB, and it's one that will be around for a long while. His performance at the Fall 2006 CoB Faculty meeting, assuming what took place that day qualifies for such a title, was bizarre to the extreme. Doty's reached the point now that even a superior administrative team would have little to no chance of rehabilitating his image. No sense even pondering that possibility with the team he has assembled.

What do we have to look forward to this year? Of course, the AACSB reaffirmation effort will dominate the headlines in the CoB for the next several months. While the CoB administration continues to applaud the reaffirmation effort, stories continue to circulate that point to cracks in the structure. We must admit that the almost daily revelation here at usmpride.com that someone in the CoB is not "academically qualified" doesn't inspire confidence, although we also have little doubt that some home cooking of the records is taking place in 211 JGH. No one knows what to expect at this point. We aren't really sure that AACSB Reaffirmation is all that relevant any more, but that's an issue for another column.

As if all this weren't enough, there are, if scuttlebutt proves accurate, a few controversial tenure and promotion dossiers are looming over the horizon. Then there's the continued push toward alternative delivery of instruction, not to mention the ranking of journals. Later in the year the usual faculty flight will begin, along with the last minute hiring processes that will accompany the faculty exodus. Just when we think things can't get any worse in the CoB, they usually do. With Harold Doty and his administrative team, we always get a bumpy ride.