

31st & Pearl

No Takers Here

“His argument that it is ok to make a mistake (like credit for 3 years running or statements in a written document that are obvious[ly] huge exaggerations) and you should just let it go because it of course will never happen again is very typical of the same old ball game. This was the same game he and [name redacted] played – and if you get caught it is just an honest mistake.” This quote comes from an e-mail written several years ago by one CoB faculty member about two former CoB administrators. It remains instructive, even today. Why? What’s old is new again.

As the school year begins, we are about six weeks into usmpride.com’s efforts to open up the CoB’s faculty evaluation process, re-accreditation efforts, faculty travel, etc. The PERS Class of 2010(ish) will certainly be scrambling to convince you that “‘mistakes’ were made.” They will want --- no, make that *need* --- you to believe that every well-documented report that you’ve seen on usmpride.com represents an “honest mistake” that was made by various CoB faculty. Ask yourself a few questions before you buy the oil. Why are there so many, and why do they occur over and over? Better yet, why are they all *good* or *beneficial* (i.e., unidirectional) “mistakes”?

As the sage quoted above understands, purposeful “mistakes” aren’t really “mistakes” at all. We’re all witnesses to a “ball game,” and one played by a group of good ole boys. They’ve honed their craft over a long period of time, relying on a secrecy bought by warped notions of confidentiality. They’re professionals when it comes to using the language of suppression. Phrases like “chain of command” take on a meaning not common to academia. And, they have the “administrator communication code” that we’ve written about before. One thing is certain, all of these things will be on display over the course of the next several weeks and months as they scratch and claw to maintain the balance they’ve created over the past few decades.