

31st & Pearl

Black to Fade

We would love to know what former CoB Dean, Harold Tyrone Black, thinks about the comings and goings of CoB these days. In the eyes of many, his legacy was destined to be one of great accomplishment, one of moving the College beyond the teaching-emphasis days of Dean Joseph Greene and into the scholarly productivity age. Now, the chances of Black's legacy getting to that point lie somewhere between slim and none. Why? The answer is only two words long: Harold Doty.

When he's not telling faculty and administrators at other universities that he's done more to establish a research culture in the CoB than any prior Dean, current Dean Harold Doty is ripping through the last vestiges of Black's hard work like a man on a mission. Since Doty's arrival in 2003, the CoB has experienced a "letter of agreement" promotion to full, a fourth year review, and a number of other untoward movements that have detracted from the base Black built throughout the 1990s. Where Black operated, at least for a time, like Jerry Maguire, Harold Doty runs the CoB more like Bob Sugar. Nowadays everything is personal, especially gain.

What must be disheartening to Black, assuming he's thought about things in these terms, is the number of his old friends and associates who have surrounded Doty, working to isolate and intimidate faculty, hide information, and reverse the academic culture that existed in the 1990s CoB. Of course, some of Doty's lieutenants were Black's enemies, make no mistake about it. Whether through side-deals or otherwise, they're all now working toward the same, sad ending. With institutional memory (amnesia) at USM being what it is these days, Black's legacy in the CoB will probably not even rate a brief footnote. But, given where the CoB is headed under Doty and his sycophants, Black may want it that way.