

31st & Pearl

Carterspeak

Judging from the evidence coming forth on the “Black Tuesday” *coup* that was orchestrated by the EFIB’s chair, George Carter, it seems clear to this columnist that Carter cheated to win his way back into sole possession of the personnel decision-making seat. But, just *what* did he win in the process? As Carter tells it, he won the comfort of rendering an independent judgment on departmental personnel issues; that is, he won independence from having to receive the advice and counsel of Tom Lindley and Mark Klinedinst.

So, what is Carter now doing with this new-found freedom and comfort of independence that he picked up on the sly? He’s taken two 4-day weekends in the past month. In doing so, he’s passed on the opportunity to experience two Friday afternoon research presentations given by newly hired, untenured assistant professors. He’s also passed on experiencing a program being run by a third newly hired, untenured assistant professor. Carter said he wanted his personnel opinions to be independent. He never said that those opinions were meant to be informed.

It’s not certain whether information even matters in Carter’s case. As has been reported before, Carter’s academic career is marked by an inability to produce scholarship of noteworthy quality. Thus, the genesis of Carter’s favorite word: “plethora.” Lindley, on the other hand, has had an academic career that rivals that of the CoB’s former Scholar-in-Residence, Ray Canterbury. Of course, Carter’s decision-making process doesn’t require having someone around who actually knows something about meritorious scholarship, such as Lindley. So, Carter cooked up the notion that both Klinedinst and Lindley were untrustworthy, and he (Carter) asked the EFIB faculty to codify that notion via a faculty vote.

CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand was thrilled at the opportunity to codify an unflattering opinion of Lindley. He was so overcome with joy he voted three separate times on the issue – an issue that passed 11 to 8. BBER Director Bill Gunther even took valuable time away from his Bureau research work to come in and drop a dime on Lindley. The EFIB was once a productive place. Those days may be gone now. Thanks, George.