

31st & Pearl

Greene Hollow

Judging from EFIB Chair George Carter's prepared statement to the EFIB on 19 September 2006 ("Black Tuesday"), Greene Hall is becoming Greene Hollow. In stating that the faculty governance choice made by EFIB is one with which the departmental chair must be "comfortable," as Carter did that day, Carter essentially added some language to USM's Faculty Handbook. What Carter fails to recognize is that faculty governance belongs to the faculty, which is precisely why the Faculty Handbook calls for a vote among all eligible faculty members. The department chair's comfort zone does not enter the equation at any point.

Given that Carter was uncomfortable with the faculty's choice, as he indicated he was, then he had one of two options: be uncomfortable, but do the job; or, resign as a member of the governance committee *and* as chair of the department. The faculty voted for a "Chair + 2" governance option, as the Faculty Handbook states. The faculty did not vote for an option called "George Carter + 2." The flimsy argument made by Carter, which was not supported in any way by documentation, means that USM's faculty are now ruled by rulers, not by rules. This is the situation, regardless of what self-annointed constitutional scholar-in-residence Harold Doty pronounces by e-mail or any other form of communication.

The shallow thinking at the top of the CoB has turned Greene Hall into Greene Hollow. The CoB's ruling class has a tunnel vision now that is focused solely on maintaining and expanding its power base. Everything else is an afterthought, if even that. There is, however, a light at the end of the tunnel. Doty's chances of ruining another institution are fading with each passing day, and that's a good thing.