

AACSB Update #3

Our news staff just received a copy of an e-mail from EFIB Chairman George Carter, dated 10 July 2007, that was sent to EFIB faculty and Interim CoB Dean Alvin J. Williams. The e-mail informed EFIB faculty that Williams had authorized the EFIB to search for/hire an instructor who was retain the "collateral" responsibility of directing the CoB's Center for Economics Education. According to Carter, the paperwork on the hiring was completed just before the beginning of the week 2-6 July 2007, and that he (Carter) was out all of that week attending the Western Economics Association meetings, presumably to interview candidates. Carter's e-mail also informed the EFIB of two additional points. First, economics professors William Gunther and Akbar Marvasti had "graciously" agreed to assist Carter with the search. Second, the search will be closed on 13 July 2007.

These details are interesting in a number of ways. Many EFIB faculty are away for the summer, and will not be able to participate in the search process. Those that are not away were, by evidence, not aware of the search process, the search committee members, nor the venue for interviews (WEA meeting) until 10 July 2007 -- just three days before the close of the search. One would think that Carter could have informed EFIB faculty *before* the week of 2-6 July that this process was underway.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this story is that an "instructor" will assume the role of Director of the CEE. It is likely that, at this late date, the chosen candidate will have reached only the ABD stage of their graduate studies. If so, then the CoB will see its first not-terminally degreed center director, and in a 6th Year Review (AACSB) no less. Only weeks after the AACSB Peer Review Team encouraged open governance practices, the CoB appears to be tightening the noose on faculty governance. Finally, this episode seems to add more evidence to another developing picture about the behind-closed-doors micro-managing that appears to be going on in the CoB's administrative corridors.