

# Aberrant Doty

The familiar Arthur Bedeian “Dean’s Disease” epigraphs accompanying various installments of USMNEWS.net’s **CoB News** series were especially appropriate on **19 August 2008**. That excerpt (shown below from **CoB News, 19 August 2008**) spoke to the situation where former deans rejoin their faculty years after last engaging in their own academic/scholarly pursuits only to find that things have changed significantly over the years. As Bedeian [explains](#), some former deans can’t overcome the disconnectedness that has occurred, and they begin to exhibit aberrant forms of behavior.

## CoB News, 19 August 2008

“Finally, recognize that although the time period will vary by dean, there seems to be a point in every dean’s tenure where, if he does not move up, returning to a faculty appointment is no longer a viable option. Being away from students, research, and the literature of one’s field for an extended period can exact a high price and make reinitiating one’s scholarly career virtually impossible. For those who do not desire to move up the academic *cursus honorum* and instead wish to return to the professorial ranks status quo ante, they will learn that their prior amicable network of colleagues has been forever changed. Some deans will be able to overcome the disconnectedness that ensues. Others, however, may turn inward and experience bouts of depression and even exhibit aberrant forms of behavior (Ket de Vries, 1989).”

Arthur G. Bedeian, 2002

Reading these **CoB News** epigraphs gives one the sense that Bedeian took a sabbatical, came to the CoB to observe administrative behavior and practices, and then produced a seminal article on the subject. In the excerpt above, it’s as if Bedeian is speaking to the behavior of former CoB dean Harold Doty. It is difficult to argue against the idea that Doty’s post-April 2007 behavior has, at times, been aberrant. The list of examples is growing with each passing semester, and the sampling below is enough of a primer to give USMNEWS.net readers a general feel of the situation:

- Doty becomes a defendant in a federal court case in Aug/Sept of 2007
- Doty threatens a plaintiff’s witness (federal case) in Sept of 2007<sup>1</sup>
- Doty sends out inexplicable communiqué to numerous CoB students<sup>2</sup>

Previous editorials here at USMNEWS.net have argued that this is a crisis-like time for USM’s CoB. This one argues that an “aberrant Doty” is a big part of that equation.

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<sup>1</sup> See [USM Police Called to Greene Hall for Second Time in 5 Months](#), [Saunders Calls on Williams to Investigate "Doty Incident"](#), [We are Coming After You . . .!](#), [CoB Life Imitates Art](#) and [Williams Concludes Investigation of "Doty Incident"](#).

<sup>2</sup> See [Doty Gone Wild?](#), [Dear USMNEWS.NET, 11-June-08](#) and [Pent-Up Doty](#).