

And then who?

Tony Henthorne, current Chair of about half of the CoB, is making it clear to anyone who will listen that he does not want to be Chair of MKT/MGT/FM next year. He received no extra money for this job, he claims, and did it as a favor for Interim Dean Williams (as speculated here previously). Given the rocky year at the helm, it is no wonder he seeks the relative solitude of only Tourism Management. It is time to enjoy the fine new suite the CoB provided for him. Before moving on to the proposed post-Henthorne year(s), let's recap some of the low-lights of the year for Dr. Henthorne:

- An absurdly high number of searches for new faculty to fill all the spots of the departed. That number continues to rise with the imminent retirements of Alvin Williams, Michael Vest and Jon Carr.
- The infighting over the homeboy desires of several MGT faculty members that hindered the hiring process. (Please see earlier reports on this topic.)
- The repeated butting in by Stephen Bushardt in matters that did not directly concern him. After being correctly rebuffed by Henthorne, Bushardt created, increased, and still carries a grudge against Henthorne. For example, he was a major player in the attempted homeboy hires for MGT. Everyone knows Bushardt is licking his chops at the thought of multiple new hires to do his bidding and be formed in his image.
- The announced retirement of Alvin Williams, Henthorne's close friend, protector, and confidante.
- The usual whining, complaining, infighting, and self-centered behavior of most of the department.
- Having to endure the continued pomposity and ignorance of Harold Doty.

As you can see, it is rational to want to unload the stress and chaos of MKT/MGT/FM even with extra money, but without it, it is foolish to stay. The only reason to stay that has been offered by anyone is as a defensive position against the next chair. Dr. Henthorne learned that lesson suffering under the Doty and Babin regime.

Who could follow Henthorne as Chair of MKT/MGT/FM? In all fairness, Henthorne is clearly the best chairman in the CoB right now. While it may not be difficult to be the best CoB chairman, he is the best, and most people are pleasantly surprised that he is.

- Stephen Bushardt – previous Chair of MGT, and the previous record holder for fewest hours worked as an administrator until the Gunther and Doty years. I guess he was simply ahead of his time. He is a self-professed “king maker”, so it is unlikely he really wants to be an administrator again except to be an influence on the

next dean. If anyone could stop laughing long enough to support Dave Duhon, that may be Bushardt's "king" to "make".

- Beth LaFleur – queen of the Coast, and encourager of the “separate yet *better* for the Coast” system. (See previous posts.) She would work less than Steve Jackson, and that is a tough task, but with extra shopping trips and hair and nail appointments, she might achieve it. Dr. Jackson has shown any chair from the Coast for an entire department is a poor idea. Her deep ties with Doty make this an even worse choice than the chameleon-like Bushardt.
- David Duhon – service is supported to be his long suit, but that seems to be fading since his stunning elevation to Full Professor. He would continue to be greatly influenced by Bushardt. Historically, Duhon has shown the ability to shift to be whatever his boss wanted him to be; that may personally benefit him under a new dean, but that would not be good for the department. On the positive side, he probably would not attack fellow faculty members like many of the previous departmental chairs.
- Sharon Topping – while a good choice for many reasons, she has made no secret that she has had enough of the CoB and is ready for a calmer, more supportive college elsewhere.
- Bill Smith – another interesting choice, but Bill has always seemed to have too much sense than to step into this mess. While he has always been a non-player in the academic research side, his outstanding teaching and service have benefited both the CoB and USM. Fairness and equality is not what is desired from the next chair.
- Harold Doty – a re-start to his crashed-and-burned administrative career. Hopefully this is absurd to everyone. It should be. If not, I hope the departmental members enjoy talking to job applicants.
- Joe Peyrefitte – current Interim Associate Dean. Perhaps he would like to keep the larger salary, step down to Chair, probably get a raise (you know how Southern Miss can be), get his research re-started, and yet be “safe”. He does not seem to have made many, if any, enemies this year; he would be fine if he does not treat Bushardt as he deserves to be treated.

No clear successor: how often does that happen in the CoB? It is a normal occurrence now. That is yet another reason for the deserved fourth tier status. Also as usual, this will be a drawn-out soap opera probably rising to Machiavellian heights. Stay tuned. They may yet come up with more money for Dr. Henthorne to stay as MKT/MGT/FM Chair.