

## Doty Trampling All Over UT-Tyler?

HATTIESBURG – A surprising 16-Feb-2011 report about trouble brewing among the administrative ranks at the University of Texas – Tyler, and the prominence of a cadre of former USM administrators in this troubling situation, has many members of the USM community (and beyond) interested in events in east Texas. As [that report](#) indicates, Gregg Lassen resigned his post as vice president of financial affairs at UT-T on 15-Feb-2011. At about the same time, the UT-T president informed the campus that his provost, Peter Fos, would be leaving for his home town of New Orleans. Lassen and Fos were once vice president for finance and dean of the College of Health, respectively, at USM. That report also stated that, according to sources, the administration chaos that appears to exist at UT-T is the result of ill-advised actions and behavior from a third former member of USM's administration – Harold Doty, the former CoB dean who is presently the dean of business administration at UT-T. As pointed out in that story, Doty, who was hired by Fos, also hired former USM management chairman/professor Stephen Bushardt to serve as the UT-T management department chairman. According to sources, each of these individuals was, in one way or another, a controversial figure while at USM.



Lassen



Fos



Doty



Bushardt

The report linked above also indicates that details about Doty's activities at UT-T were being compiled and analyzed by USMNEWS.net. Some of that work has now been completed. This report brings us to the anonymous letter inserted below, which is dated 26-Jan-2011, stamped "CONFIDENTIAL," and addressed to "Dr. Harold Doty *Dean The University of Texas at Tyler.*" The letter, which has been widely circulated throughout the UT-T and Tyler communities (and beyond), is analyzed in the space below the insert below.

January 26, 2011

CONFIDENTIAL

Dr. Harold Doty  
Dean  
The University of Texas at Tyler  
3900 University Blvd  
Tyler, TX 75799

Dr. Doty:

It has been roughly eighteen months since you assumed the role of Dean of the College of Business and Technology through corrupt means at the University of Texas at Tyler. In that time, you have succeeded in alienating the business community, in mismanaging the finances of the college, and in cultivating a toxic environment in which the members of the College operate. Sound familiar? In case you need to be reminded, refer to [www.usmpride.com/dear\\_doty.pdf](http://www.usmpride.com/dear_doty.pdf). After your abysmal run at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), you should never have been allowed to hold a position of public trust again.

Thanks to the cronyism of your good friend UT Tyler provost, Dr. "Pete" Fos (from Mississippi), and your doctoral student who "owes" you, UT Tyler Vice President of Business Affairs Mr. Greg Lassen (also from Mississippi), you were able to garner the Dean position at a considerably higher salary than the amount offered to the top contender. No doubt, this is part of the reason Greg has chosen to conveniently leave in such an unexpected manner. Although, the scuttlebutt is that his leaving is part of a bigger plan to come back and assume the position of President in the not too distant future...

You have mishandled the budget since day one. You have treated the entire budget as your personal "booze account" – doing with it what you want and claiming your ignorance of the laws of the great State of Texas as an excuse. You provide a very good explanation of your approach to budgetary issues at [www.youtube.com/user/mercerga](http://www.youtube.com/user/mercerga).

You have been passing out degrees like candy – to students who do not come close to meeting the requirements, creating "specialty degrees" for children of your buddies in direct violation of University guidelines and state laws. You manipulated your own daughter records, getting approval from your friend Dr. Fos!. You treat the college like your own kingdom, to do what you want and give degrees to whomever you please. This is unacceptable.

You may see this as harmless, as your bureaucratic right to take advantage for your own personal benefit. What you fail to realize (or simply do not care about) is that your reckless disregard for the rules could result in the loss of accreditation and funding for the University!. The result of UT Tyler losing accreditation – which you already did at Mississippi – would be a devaluing of the degrees of all current and future students at UT Tyler, valuable degrees that our young people earned honestly through hard work.

CONFIDENTIAL

Your abominable treatment of our respected faculty is shameful. Getting rid of the talented faculty (more than ten professors terminated in the school of business including Clayton Allen and many others that are victims of your threats since you came here) just to bring in your unscrupulous henchmen is reprehensible. Anyone losing their job in this economy is no laughing matter. Your arrogant contempt for the capable faculty that was here before you is an insult to our academic and business community. To add insult to injury you bring in your abusive, alcoholic and violent comrade (also from Mississippi – see link below) as the only candidate allowed to interview for the position of Chair of the department of Management and Marketing. This is not only wrong, it is illegal. And paying him over \$20,000 for a month of “work” in the summer and moving expenses as well as a \$120,000 salary is questionable. And you are telling everyone that are *no available* operational funds for faculty and staff. [www.usmnews.net/Pages%20from%20bushardt.pdf](http://www.usmnews.net/Pages%20from%20bushardt.pdf)

Your tenure as Dean is a spectacular failure. You take extreme liberties with the College of Business at the University of Texas at Tyler. You are emboldened by your close personal relationships with the upper ranks of administration. This should not be allowed and is in fact illegal. Your influence serves only to destroy the College and your actions threaten to ruin the University. Already your friends are helping mitigate and hide lawsuits from students brought against the University because of your actions. We know there are other lawsuits coming your way.

Tyler deserves better. Tyler demands better!!

Paragraph one of the letter above repeats several of the themes that appear in reports and editorials about Doty that are available here at USMNEWS.net. The author(s) states that Doty obtained the top b-school position at UT-T through “corrupt means,” which sources point out does not really stretch the imagination given the lofty positions at UT-T that were held by Doty’s associates – Fos and Lassen – at the time Doty sought the UT-T b-school position. The concept of Doty being involved in a “dirty search” on one side or the other is not a foreign one to many who have experienced Doty’s leadership in the past. Paragraph one also contains accusations that Doty has alienated the Tyler business community, mismanaged UT-T funds, and promoted a toxic environment in the UT-T business school – all accusations that various reports and editorials here at USMNEWS.net support, at least in terms of Doty’s 2003-07 service at USM.

In paragraph two, the author or authors accuse Fos of cronyism in the Doty hire, and they implicate Lassen in a *quid pro quo* scheme to provide Doty with a better-than-market salary in return for Doty’s help with Lassen’s educational pursuits. Long-time followers of USM will recall that Lassen served as vice president at USM while at the same time pursuing an online PhD in economic/international development from USM, itself a highly controversial and suspect academic program. According to old reports here at USM, the only class Doty taught while a USM dean from 2003-07 was a graduate course in economic/international development. According to the letter, it is believed by some that Lassen departed UT-T before the chaos there escalated.

Paragraph three reminds readers of Doty’s now *infamous* “booze account” financial management philosophy, adding that he is now flouting the laws of Texas. Paragraph four adds the accusation that Doty has been “passing out degrees [at UT-T] like candy,” and “creating ‘specialty degrees’ for children [of] his buddies,” which is in violation of

policies and laws. Long-time readers of USMNEWS.net will recall that Doty went to various committees/faculty while at USM, seeking approval for *carte blanche* authority to provide a general bachelor's degree to *certain* students who could not, for one reason or another, successfully progress through a specific CoB degree program. According to one source, Doty's academic programs chief at USM, Gwen Pate, mentioned to some CoB faculty that the first candidate for one of these types of degrees was the child of a financial backer of USM's business school who was having academic difficulties. Thus, this particular accusation, like some others, rings familiar.

After warning Doty that his reckless disregard for rules could cost AACSB accreditation for UT-T – something that occurred at USM under the leadership of Doty and his associate dean, Farhang Niroomand, now the dean at the University of Houston at Victoria – the author(s) adds a lengthy paragraph about Doty's shameful treatment of UT-T business faculty, including several who were terminated by Doty. One of these – Clayton Allen – is mentioned by name. Referring to Doty as “arrogant” is something USMNEWS.net sources characterize as soft-peddling the issue of Doty's character and leadership style.

Bushardt is brought into the presentation when the letter informs the UT-T and Tyler communities that Doty brought in an “abusive, alcoholic, and violent” associate (from Mississippi) to lead the UT-T management department. It also states that Bushardt was paid \$20,000 by Doty for one month during the summer of 2010, and that Bushardt is currently being paid a \$120,000 per year salary. Saying that Bushardt is benefitting financially from his relationship to Doty, or any other administrator, simply adds another brick to the wall of reports about Bushardt here at USMNEWS.net.

According to the letter, Doty's actions at UT-T have generated a number of lawsuits, with more expected in the future. On that note, Doty has pending lawsuit difficulties back in Hattiesburg. Reports and editorials here at USMNEWS.net indicate that Doty had mysterious troubles while at the University of Arkansas, which have led faculty from that institution to a reluctance to even discuss Doty in any way. Throughout his stint at USM, a number of faculty at Syracuse University, Doty's prior stop, were in constant contact with individuals at USM, stating that Doty's departure from the business school there was a boon to that institution.

The letter above is more than troubling, and it seems that the UT-T president and higher education administrators in the UT system have a real mess on their hands in Doty. Stay tuned to USMNEWS.net for reporting on events as they unfold.