

By George

A Look at the Text of George Carter's Denigration of David Duhon

EFIB Chair George Carter's excoriation of the promotion to full professor in 2006 of CoB management professor, David Duhon, has been the subject of numerous reports and editorials here at USMNEWS.NET. Even with all of the reporting, and the incredible "What George Carter Thinks" series that has augmented the many reports, USMNEWS.NET readers have not had access to the wider text of Carter's comments about Duhon's promotion. That is, up until now that access has not occurred.

This report brings Carter's disparaging remarks about Duhon right to the computer screens of USMNEWS.NET readers. That text is inserted below:

"There aren't many people in this profession that [are good in all three areas]. And, as we get more and more foreign people into it, that proportion keeps going down and down and down. We're in a profession that's a collegial profession. It's a social organization. It's one that is peculiar in a variety of ways. And, most of the peculiarities have to do with the fact that the hallmark of what we do is criticize. If in academia people don't ask the hard questions -- the questions that shouldn't be asked, the ones that are politically incorrect -- then who in the world is going to ask them? So, institutionally we're set up for our people to do that . . . So, one of the things that a person has to be in this profession . . . is to be a[n] . . . unpleasant person as a critic, who is willing to say that the king doesn't have any clothes on, that Doty is a jerk, that there is something unacceptable here. But, we are a social organization, though. And, there is a judgment and balance that you have to maintain that is more intuition than explicit. . . The reason I said Duhon is Duhon got promoted, and I never would've written a letter supporting his promotion. I like Duhon. He's a personal friend. I've had him over at my house. I think he's a great guy, but he's not a full professor. I'm not management, but that's my opinion. And, he probably wouldn't be a full professor now [if not for] . . . a situation where Duhon's friends were able to go over and tell the Provost "Hey, you better override [the University Advisory Council] and make this guy a full professor." And, the Provost who's known for caving, caved. People went to bat for him because he's a nice guy. And the people who went to bat for him, by and large, are people who, when you look at their credibility in this profession, they're not particularly well-known scholars [or] critics. They're just good ol' boys. That's what good ol' boys do -- they take care of their own."

The passage above paints the picture of daily life in USM's College of Business. It also paints a picture of Carter, the master who is served by other complicit characters in the EFIB who also want to be seen as academics. The latter part is what they are now finding difficult to maintain, and for good reason. There's nothing like the light of day, and it is being applied daily on Carter and the rest of the CoB.