

Responsibility for Carter's Bitterness Misplaced

A Guest Editorial by **Victoria Tyler**

Former EFIB chairman and outgoing CoB/USM economist George Carter is extremely bitter these days. He may have some right to be, given that his pending 30-June-10 retirement was forced upon him by the Martha Saunders administration. Still, Carter's bitterness is largely aimed, sources say, at CoB dean Lance Nail, instead of other, perhaps more appropriate, targets. One of these, arguably the primary one, is former CoB dean Harold Doty (pictured below).



Despite his personal feelings for Doty, Carter shamelessly followed the dean who Duane Cobb ranks as the CoB's worst business dean since USM's founding in 1910. Conspiracy theorists believe that former USM president Shelby Thames was elevated to the USM presidency by an IHL Board bent on knocking USM down a few notches. The beauty of this notion is that the IHL didn't discuss the plan with Thames, they knew simply that Thames, even with good intentions, would be a disaster as president. That he was. Part of that disastrous reign was Thames' 2003 decision to hire Doty. Some of the same conspiracy theorists believe that Thames wanted to bring down the USM b-school a notch or two, and Doty was, despite any intentions to the contrary, just the fumbling, inexperienced executive to accomplish that goal.

Doty led the CoB from 2003-07, a period that included Carter's re-ascendancy to chair (2005), and ended with a failed AACSB reaccreditation attempt (2007). As so many reports and editorials here at USMNEWS.net point out, Carter is the consummate "company man" who will hold a *tenure club over someone's head*, choose *his own standard of accuracy*, and follow administrators down whatever path they select, *regardless of whether or not it's the right thing to do*. Carter did these things from 2005-07 for the *failed* Doty administration, and yet he now wonders how his beloved ECO found itself in the predicament that led to CoB-ECO's fall 2009 elimination. Carter's inability to connect the dots back to his service to Doty epitomizes Carter's own inadequacies as a university administrator and faculty.

Though ECO is now in the CoAL, and down to fewer than a handful of permanent faculty, it is probably in a better position in the long-term survival sense than it was in 2007, at the height of Carter's second stint as chairman. For that, members of the USM community may actually be in debt to Nail, and not bitter about his actions, as Carter and his sycophants in CoB-ECO are as they exit USM for retirement.