

Cesspool President

A GUEST EDITORIAL

The recent [news reports](#) and [editorials](#) here at USMNEWS.net [about](#) the USM-related [mess at the](#) University of Texas at Tyler provides [a cautionary tale](#) for those seeking to land [a top-level](#) administration [position](#) in higher [education](#). UT at Tyler president Rodney Mabry hasn't [handled the mess](#) very well thus far, and with former USM business college dean Harold Doty at the [center of it](#) all, that lack of managerial acumen will most likely come at great cost to the UT at Tyler community. From misdeeds by Doty and former USM management professor Stephen Bushardt, to an anti-Doty letter circulating within the Tyler business community, to Mabry's misdirected swipe at rectifying [the boiling situation](#), things at UT at Tyler have been testy and getting worse for some time now.



Dr. Rodney H. Mabry

Given that the last thing that USMNEWS.net readers have heard about this situation came from Mabry's recent meeting with UT at Tyler business faculty, it would probably be useful to return to that event in order to provide more clarification as to what transpired there. First, Mabry was very upset, *but not with anything Doty had been accused of doing*. No, he was upset with a website in Mississippi for writing about the situation in Tyler. He claimed to have long-standing knowledge of the website from a close friend who was once a university president in Mississippi, and who told him that the information on the website is false. That friend, he said, is now president at the University of Houston. As for the anti-Doty letter circulating throughout Tyler, Mabry felt confident it originated from Mississippi as well. Finally, Mabry admonished Tyler faculty for supposedly leaking information to the Mississippi-based website.

Ironically, Mabry's own speech was laced with falsehoods. For one, the close friend is Tim Hudson, the former *provost* (i.e., not president) at USM. Second, Hudson is also no longer the president at the University of Houston at *Victoria* (i.e., not Houston). He now sits, like a child, directly under the watchful eye of UH System chancellor Renu Khator, reportedly as a result of misdeeds down in Victoria. Third, the anti-Doty letter did not originate in Mississippi, as Mabry insinuated. So, as a result of a missed chance, Mabry is now presiding over an institution that much more resembles an academic cesspool than when the cadre of former USM administrators first arrived. That missed chance is devastating to those who care about UT at Tyler and the greater Tyler community.