

CoB News, 4 June 2008

Doty Gone Wild?

According to a USMNEWS.NET source, CoB management professor Harold Doty recently e-mailed CoB students enrolled in a section of MGT 400 and informed the students that the particular section of MGT 400 had been "canceled by the university." Doty's message was cryptic at best, and offered no explanation to the students nor any instructions on what to do about their course schedules. This story got more intriguing when the CoB's Director of Undergraduate Services, Gwen Pate, was informed of Doty's e-mail. On 29-May-08 Pate followed Doty's e-mail with her own, instructing the students to ignore Doty's prior e-mail. According to Pate, any cancellation action by USM was "in error" and was, at that time, "in the process of being fixed." Pate did, however, inform the students that they would have a different instructor for the course, but she (Pate) did not then know who that individual would be. Pate closed by informing the students that they remained enrolled in the MGT 400 course and apologizing to them for any "panic attacks" that Doty's earlier missive may have caused them.

In this case, Doty appears to have stepped on the toes of CoB administrators by e-mailing the students. There are a number of plausible interpretations of these events. We will leave these, and any other speculations up to USMNEWS.NET readers. However, sources tell USMNEWS.NET that these are the kind of situations that new CoB Dean Lance Nail will have to deal with from time to time, as the current Interim Dean, Alvin Williams, has allowed them to fester for the past 15 months.

FIN Instruction Quality Profile Sinking

A recent search of www.ratemyprofessors.com reveals that incoming CoB Dean, Lance Nail, currently an associate professor of finance at the University of Alabama -- Birmingham, is serious about quality instruction. Nail's RMP quality score from UAB is a stout 4.2 (out of 5), easily placing him among the top 10 instructors in USM's CoB. However, as dean of the CoB, Nail's impact on the quality of the CoB's instruction will not likely come from his participation in teaching duties, at least not if one goes by the teaching habits of the CoB's previous two deans, William Gunther and Harold Doty. Neither of these did much, if anything, in the way of instruction while dean.

The same cannot be said of new FIN professor, Francis Laatsch, from Bowling Green State University. According to RMP, Laatsch offers very little when it comes to quality instruction. Laatsch's RMP average from BGSU is only 2.8, a figure that would put Laatsch next to ACC's Marvin Albin, who is near the bottom of the CoB. So, in addition to the kind of situation covered in our first news item above, Nail will have to get a handle on the CoB's hiring processes if he is to turn the CoB around any time soon.