

# CoB Power Line

## A Look at Who Holds the Reigns of Power in the CoB

*by Duane Cobb*

The CoB has devolved into such an academic banana republic of sorts that it is probably useful to take stock, from time to time, of just who holds the most political power there. Without question political power in the CoB waxes and wanes, just as it does in any of the typical unstable, tin pot hot spots around the globe. That's what updates are for.

The table below shows, what is in my own estimation, the **CoB Power Line** as of 12 November 2007. Some discussion of the **Line** follows its presentation. Please feel free to construct your own, and/or to drop a note to [www.usmnews.net](http://www.usmnews.net) with your comments about mine.

**Table 1**  
**Duane Cobb's CoB Power Line, 12-Nov-07**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position in USM's CoB</u>
George Carter	Chair, EFIB
Stephen Bushardt	Professor of Management
Lee Gore	Instructor of Accounting
Alvin Williams	Interim Dean
Tony Henthorne	Chair, MGT&MKT and TM
Farhang Niroomand	Professor of Economics
Joseph Peyrefitte	Interim Associate Dean
Gwen Pate	Director, Undergrad Services
Harold Doty	Professor of Management
Steven Jackson	Director, SAIS
Sonia Gaines-Littles	Alternative Learning Coordinator
William Gunther	Professor of Economics

EFIB Chair George Carter moves up from 3rd to 1st this time. According to sources, Carter has (1) successfully de-railed the Alvin Williams Administration's recent attempt to replace ECO 336 in the CoB's core curriculum with an option to take the "international course" in each major, (2) refused to close out offerings of BA 303 as mandated by a CoB vote, and (3) continued to provide overload sections for himself and others (e.g., John Clark, associate professor of finance). These are but three examples of how Carter continues to flex his political muscle in the CoB.

Management professor Stephen Bushardt makes the biggest jump, from out of nowhere to 2nd. As reported recently, Bushardt is now Chair of the CoB's College Advisory Council. In this capacity, Bushardt has sway over the fate of

the CoB's P&T dossiers, many of which are of the "controversial" variety. Sources have also indicated that various political pressures from Bushardt and others may have played a role in Williams' surprise decision to retire in June of 2008.

Accounting professors Charles Jordan and Roderick Posey both fall out of the most recent **Power Line**, while management professor, and former CoB Dean, Harold Doty climbs from 12th to 9th. Doty has been linked by sources to the "political pressures" faction noted just above. Joining Bushardt as a newbie to this installment of **Power Line** is Alternative Learning Coordinator and Executive Assistant to the Dean, Sonia Gaines-Littles. Gaines-Littles retains "signature authority" over all e-mails emanating from individual CoB faculty that are addressed to "All CoB."