

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 3 October 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 with your comments about mine.

Table 1
Duane Cobb's CoB Power Line, 3-Oct-07

Name	Position in USM's CoB
Lee Gore	Instructor of Accounting
Alvin Williams	Interim Dean
George Carter	Chair, EFIB
Tony Henthorne	Chair, MGT&MKT and TM
Farhang Niroomand	Professor of Economics
William Gunther	Professor of Economics
Steven Jackson	Director, SAIS
Joseph Peyrefitte	Interim Associate Dean
Charles Jordan	Professor of Accounting
Rod Posey	Professor of Accounting
Gwen Pate	Director, Undergrad Services
Harold Doty	Professor of Management

Why Lee Gore? Some events have transpired over the past few months that have put Gore, in his capacity as USM Counsel, in the position of pulling Interim Dean Alvin Williams out of a few proverbial fires. Williams' unsure footing, to put it mildly, opened the door for Gore to show off his wares. It is likely that he has, like no other CoB official has, USM President Martha Saunders' ear on matters of CoB governance when he needs it.

Never mind Gore, Williams has his hands full jockeying for position with EFIB Chair George Carter. The gap between Gore and Williams now is probably greater than the gap between Williams and Carter. Quite a bit below this duo is the quartet of Tony Henthorne, Farhang Niroomand, William Gunther, and Steven Jackson. Two things are of interest here. Though still among the Top 5,

Niroomand's status in the CoB is slipping, and fast. The slippage got a boost last week, and will likely continue at a torrid pace. Gunther, on the other hand, is enjoying a lofty position not seen by him at any time during the Harold Doty administration of the CoB. Unfortunately for several CoB faculty, Gunther often establishes himself as a cog in various opportunistic schemes of one kind or another, usually designed to benefit himself and others at the expense of some other, much harder working faculty member than himself.

One would figure that an Associate Dean would rank higher on the **Line**, however the CoB's Joseph Peyrefitte currently sits 8th. In my estimation, given this administration's penchant for behaving much like the prior one, Peyrefitte should not want a place any higher than 8th and he should probably be working to remain outside of the Top 10.

Some of Charles Jordan's recent actions have him springing into the Top 10, while Gwen Pate has ascended to 11th. Of course, it's interesting that Jordan opted to take credit for Doty's *without proper citation* AACCS gambit from the fall of 2006. Now, with his recent ascent to Top 10 status, Jordan appears to be attempting to end his long career at USM on a political note, and one not worthy of a scholar. Finally, through all of the snafus, gaffes, and malice, former Dean Harold Doty hangs on to a spot in the Top 12 -- a possibility that not only disheartens the many victims of his catty behavior over 2003-2007, but also dings the ego of management professor Stephen Bushardt, who would like to occupy the 12th spot himself.