

Dear USMNEWS.net,

The recent column by Duane Cobb regarding Danny Arnold's vita was on the money. Arnold's vita virtually screams, "I'm rearranging deck chairs...don't bother me with real academic issues." If Arnold is the final choice for the CoB dean's job, then we can look forward to several more years of business as usual. One CoB faculty member I talked to said that the word on the street is that Arnold won't pursue many accomplishments at USM, since he does need several more years in the PERS system to get his full retirement, and he doesn't want to spend those years locked in combat with the deadwood leaders in the college.

Arnold's vita also pointed out an interesting issue. As I recall, Arnold was associated with the 2006 AACSB accounting accreditation review process, even though he only holds a bachelor's degree in accounting. If my memory is correct, then this means that USM "tenured" instructor Patty Munn has a higher level of accounting credential than does Arnold, a potential fact that doesn't inspire confidence in AACSB, to say the least.

A final question on Arnold's candidacy is whether or not the President at Frostburg State knows just how hard Arnold is trying to get out of Frostburg. I've been told that Arnold is a candidate for the dean job at Arkansas-Ft. Smith as well as at USM. If the Arkansas report is true, then his planned departure from Frostburg isn't just about PERS, since getting to Ft. Smith wouldn't help him in that regard. What is Arnold running from? Is the Frostburg faculty in open rebellion against the man who was once denied the USM CoB Dean's job because he was a "hick" who couldn't project the image desired by USM central administration? Has the Frostburg president figured out Arnold's game, and now it's time to move on? Who knows?

The CoB has sunk to the nadir of academia, a 4th Tier college that is unable to retain promising young scholars, unwilling to retain longtime producers, disinterested in providing quality education for its students, and unable to attract quality new faculty as replacements. It appears that all the CoB can do is retread worn-out faces who need to top off their retirement funds and punish those who don't share the "bring 'em all home" vision.