

David Duhon Revisited

As [David Duhon retires](#), usmnews.net has been asked to revisit the dubious history by which he became first a full professor then chairman of the management department. For those who may have forgotten, it was only a few years ago that then-associate professor of management, David Duhon, approached then-MGT & MKT chairman, Alvin Williams, and then-CBED/CoB dean, Harold Doty, to request detailed information on what it would take for Duhon to receive their support for his promotion-to-full application. Duhon had submitted at least one application during the William Gunther administration (1998-2003) that wasn't well-received. His research record was weak, to say the least, and this time Duhon wanted firm guidance. Instead of presenting Duhon with a crisp, clean copy of *Enhancing Faculty Productivity* (the CoB's faculty handbook) and instructing him to reacquaint himself with it, as they should have done, Williams and Doty took it upon themselves to draw up a plan under which Duhon was to publish a handful of additional journal articles, one of which was already accounted for by a 'forthcoming' pedagogical paper on Duhon's record at that time.

The plan for Duhon came to be known as a "letter of agreement" (LOA) between Duhon and these now former b-school administrators. Duhon's mentor, former CoB management professor Stephen Bushardt (now of University of Texas at Tyler), told various CoB faculty that only two or three such agreements had been effected during his 25-year tenure in USM's business school. Williams, whose USM career spanned even longer, told others that he had never been

part of such an agreement before. Despite these proclamations, Stephen Bushardt and others continued to claim that Duhon was not being accorded any special treatment (even though Bushardt told some CoBers that Duhon's LOA would likely hold up in court as a contractual agreement). Yet, at the moment that Williams and Doty decided not to present Duhon with *EFP*, they began according him with nothing but special treatment.

For those of you who may have forgotten Bushardt's violent history, consider an excerpt from the affidavit supporting his now former wife's motion for Temporary Restraining Order:

"...On July 27, 2009 Stephen had been drinking, was staggering and had slurring of his speech...Stephen was screaming at me [Stephen's wife] and using profanity calling me a F____, along with other things. I was very frightened...I entered the house and Stephen screamed, "I feel violent" and grabbed my shoulders and started to shake me and threaten to beat us and kill me...I called the Lamar County Sheriff's Department..."

A complete copy of the affidavit may be reviewed by [clicking here](#).

Until recently, Duhon was a full professor of management. His LOA worked out for him in the end. Never mind that the University Advisory Council rejected Duhon's application. That small hurdle was taken care of by Bushardt, former CoB MGT & MKT chairman, Barry Babin, and others who joined the Spring Break entourage that walked over to the Lucas Administration Building to convince then-USM provost, Jay Grimes, that Duhon had a legal case for promotion. As former EFIB chairman, George Carter explained, Grimes was and is a "caver." Grimes "caved," and Duhon rose. Yes, not only did Duhon become a full professor, he held the

administrative position Williams once held (chair of MGT & MKT), *as well as* the distinguished professorship title that was once Williams' (*Kaetsu Distinguished Professor of International Business*). Neither Williams nor Duhon held proper credentials for such a professorship, but that's another report for another time.