

Dear USM news,

I am hoping you can print this letter anonymously. I could run into some trouble with certain members of my discipline in the COB otherwise. That is because I can tell you that [EFIB chairman] George Carter told an assembled group of COB faculty back in May of 2007 that USM news had run its course and it had nothing further that could threaten the "cushy existence" (*my words*) that COB administrators had built for themselves. That message came a little more than one year after USM news had launched on the Internet. I had two thoughts back in those days. One was, "What does Carter know?" Many COB faculty outside of economics know him only through the stuff he says at college meetings. That's enough to believe that he is no one to pay too much attention to. My second thought was that it was possibly true, but even if so USM news had uncovered a lot of things about COB administrators and others that needed to be made public. Well, I think just the second and third weeks of this month, May of 2009, are enough to tell me that my first thought back then was the accurate one. Just in this portion of this month, about half of this month and two years after Carter's pronouncement that USM news was dead, we have learned:

- FINRELS is going to have to lose phone service this summer due to budgetary shortfalls
- FINRELS' budgetary shortfalls look to be due in part to managerial malfeasance on George Carter's part
- COB dean Lance Nail is travelling all the time, and with little-to-no results to show for it all
- Cheri Becker is moving to MGT, and as a result of a meltdown on her end
- Shahdad Naghshpour, who was dumped on by CoB administrators, just won a university-wide research award
- Mark Klinedinst had the highest Faculty Senate absenteeism rate in 2008-09
- 5 COB faculty were awarded tenure, including some controversial ones
- Frank Laatsch was named FINRELS chair, despite a national search having taken place

Again this is all from just the 2nd-3rd weeks of May of 2009, only half a month's time, and a full two years after Carter said it was all done. Not only that, Carter is himself continuing to engage in the kinds of bad behaviors that are worthy of our attention. Thanks again for continuing to bring these and other stories to our attention.

<name withheld by request>

Dear USMNEWS.NET,

The story developing about Cheri Becker [being moved to MGT as a result of becoming unmanageable in TM] is no surprise to a number of us. If [former CoB dean Harold] Doty thought she was so great then he should hire her at his new gig [as dean of business at the University of Texas at Tyler]. How much do you want to bet that'll never happen?

[name omitted]