

DEAR USMNEWS.NET

Dear usmnews.net,

Over the past several months I have become a regular visitor to your blog. Sometimes I think usmnews knows more about what's happening on campus than the faculty does. Over the past several months, it feels like things have gotten increasingly secret around campus. One of my colleagues called it "mushroom management" -- Keep 'em in the dark and feed them plenty of bulls**t.

So many young faculty are job hunting because they are worried about their future. Do you think anything is going to change?

Name withheld

Dear Name withheld,

I wouldn't bet my life that things are going to change for the better. My impression, like yours, is that secrecy has become a way of life for the administration. As usmnews.net has [previously written](#),

about all we can do at this point is *hope* for the best and plan for the worst. However, as a [commenter to an article](#) in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* said, I used to think that Shared Governance and Academic Freedom were myths, like the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus...but I've actually seen a lot more evidence of the existence of the Easter Bunny and Santa Claus.

Let me give you an example. The University denied the existence of documents usmnews.net had requested under an open records request. Curiously, a colleague on campus had already provide us certain information. When we pointed out that we have information indicating that the University's claim might not be true ... Was that the sound of a stone wall being built?