

Doty Already in a Hole

How the Decision to Place Susan in ECO at UT-T will Ultimately Hurt Harold

Former CoB dean, and current CoB MGT professor, Harold Doty has been Dean-elect of the b-school at the University of Texas – Tyler only about 24 hours and already he's in a hole as far as b-school faculty there are concerned. It seems that the placement of Harold's wife Susan (shown below) in the ECO unit at UT-T was as big a surprise to UT-T b-school faculty as it was to many of our readers who were greeted this morning (28-April-09) the USMNEWS.net report entitled "[Congratulations Susan and Harold](#)", which broke the story on Susan's imminent place on the UT-T ECO faculty.



Susan Doty

In all fairness, as the report above indicates CoB dean Lance Nail knew at least as early as yesterday (27-April-09) that Susan was to become a UT-T economist in August-09, and USMNEWS.net sources were reporting in the time between Nail's now well-known e-mail announcement yesterday and this morning's report that Susan's imminent placement in UT-T ECO had begun to reach UT-T b-school faculty in "shock and awe"-like fashion. There's nothing like waking up to the news that Harold is your new dean, and Susan is your new economics colleague, at least that is how one source relayed events that are transpiring today out west in Tyler.

It's difficult to sift through the details of this story and not see how Harold is already in a hole with the faculty over at UT-T. Having faculty placed in your midst, especially those *closely related* to your new dean, does **not** speak highly of Harold Doty's opinion of faculty governance. Such is life under Doty, and as one source put it, the b-school folks at UT-T need to start getting used to it if they are to maintain any semblance of sanity over the next few years. The whole episode also raises a more philosophical question, and perhaps one that we may one day know the answer to, assuming Doty is able to demonstrate at Tyler that some lessons were learned whilst dean at USM. That is, how high up the administrative ladder in academia can Harold climb and still be able to place Susan as an economics faculty? Well, we may never actually get a sense of the answer to this question. As stated earlier, getting that

answer is premised on Harold actually learning lessons from past mistakes. The placement of Susan on the economics faculty at UT-T already represents enough evidence to conclude that, once again, Harold wasn't paying attention in class. The next thing we'll hear is that Doty has combined UT-T's economics, finance and international business faculty into something called "EFIB," *and* that he has hired a certain Texas A&M-trained economist to chair that unit into the near future and beyond. Of course, that will be followed with a highly detailed *student honor code* and some new definitions of faculty qualifications vis-à-vis the AACSB. I, for one, can't wait. Can you?