

# Driving Ms. Doty

*What William Gunther's SEDONA Vita Says about Susan Doty's Qualifications to Head the Center for Economics Education at USM*

On 20-July-2007, reporters at USMNEWS.NET broke the story (see headline below) that an EFIB search committee had selected Susan Doty, wife of former CoB Dean Harold Doty, as its preferred candidate for the opening as Director of the EFIB's Center for Economics Education. Contained in that story is a copy of a 20-July-2007 e-mail to EFIB

## Breaking News

### EFIB Search Committee Favors Ms. Doty

faculty from George Carter, chair of both the EFIB Department and CEE Director search committee. In that e-mail, Carter informed EFIB faculty that, after a national search, two applications for the CEE Director position were received, one of which was submitted by



Susan Doty



Harold Doty



George Carter

Doty. Carter's e-mail stated that Doty received a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) -- not a Master's in Economics -- from Bryant College in 1982. Carter's e-mail, as excerpted below, also stated that Doty "... has extensive experience in teaching

Susan Doty received an MBA with honors in 1982 from Bryant College. She has extensive experience in teaching economics education workshops. Since late summer 2004, she has conducted approximately eighty economics education workshops as professional development for K-12 teachers in Mississippi. The Mississippi Council for Economic Education keeps records of teaching effectiveness in the workshops, and Pam Smith, President of the Mississippi Council, has written a letter in support of Ms. Doty in which she testifies to Ms. Doty's teaching effectiveness. We also received letters of support for Ms. Doty from

economics education workshops . . .”, having taught approximately 80 to K-12 teachers in Mississippi (as professional development for these teachers) since late summer of 2004.

me) reviewed the applications of the two applicants. The committee thinks that Susan Doty's established position in the economics education network and experience in presenting economics education workshops makes her the preferred candidate and recommends her to the faculty. Please send me an e-mail as a vote on whether you support the

As the second excerpt from Carter’s e-mail (see above) indicates, the search committee, which consists of Carter, William Gunther and Akbar Marvasti, “. . . thinks that Susan Doty’s established position in the economics education network and experience in presenting economics education workshops makes her the preferred candidate . . .”



William Gunther



Akbar Marvasti

A second USMNEWS.NET report on this episode, entitled “Sins of Omission . . .,” points out that Carter seems to suggest (in his e-mail; see above) that Susan Doty’s best attribute for providing K-12 workshops and heading the CEE is that she’s been doing so for some months, not that she has the requisite mastery of economics and an background of academic accomplishment in the field.<sup>1</sup> Evidence has recently come to light that calls into question the qualifications of Susan Doty for delivery any type of economics instruction, to K-12 teachers in Mississippi or to USM students.<sup>2</sup> That evidence comes from Gunther’s 2007 SEDONA vita, obtained by USMNEWS.NET via an open records request of USM. The relevant portions of Gunther’s SEDONA vita are inserted below:

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<sup>1</sup> That report showed that the other candidate, Corey Miller, holds a Master’s degree in agricultural economics and has a publication record since 2003 that rivals that of some of the rank-and-file economics faculty in the CoB.

<sup>2</sup> Carter’s e-mail states that Doty has taught economics courses at the University of Arkansas (presumably from 1990-1995) and Syracuse University (presumably from 1995-2003).

**William Gunther ... My Vita**

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**William D Gunther**

Professor of Economics

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**Other Teaching Activities**

**Course (New) - Creation/Delivery: Online**

2006 - Creation of 7 'modules' on Tracking the Economy for Mississippi Council on Economic Education. Modules to be accessed by high school teachers of economics.

Gunther states, in the "Other Teaching Activities" section of his SEDONA file, that he created (in 2006) "7 'modules' on Tracking the Economy" for the Mississippi Council on Economic Education. He also notes that the modules "... are to be accessed by high school teachers of economics." Gunther, currently the Director of the Bureau of Business and Economics Research, an agency whose task is to assist businesses by providing information about the regional economy, seems to instead be spending his time performing the duties of a position one might consider a Director/Lead Educator for a university-based Center for Economics Education. It appears as though Gunther is doing the "economics" part of the project, and Doty is simply relaying (as a mouthpiece) the "information" to K-12 teachers.<sup>3</sup> This finding provides some indication of Susan Doty's qualifications, or lack thereof, for serving as a lead economics instructor of any kind.

Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that when former CoB Dean Harold Doty began setting up the CEE, he was looking for a PhD in economics (at USM) to serve as Director, fronting for his wife Susan's economics education activities around the state. That position was turned down by a number of the CoB's economics faculty. A (first) subsequent national search also failed to produce a Director. It seems as though, with Susan Doty, the CoB's administration hit the mark this time. However, given that she does not hold any real economics credentials to speak of, the CoB's AACSB accreditation hopes are going to take a hit on this one.

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<sup>3</sup> As one source put it when looking at these exhibits, "... the CoB may have gotten into a sort of academic Milli Vanilli scandal." If so, then state and federal granting authorities may be involved, potentially tarnishing the USM's Office of the VP for Research.