

Is it Me, or Does Danny Arnold's Vitae Smell Like Fish?

by Duane Cobb

The second CoB Dean finalist, Danny Arnold, is coming to visit USM's campuses next week. Arnold, the current b-school Dean at Frostburg State University and member of the CoB's 2006-07 AACSB Peer Review Team, has been the subject of reports and editorials here at USMNEWS.NET since his candidacy was predicted weeks ago by USMNEWS.NET staff. Now, USMNEWS.NET is hosting Arnold's application vitae, and for the first time visiting the site (in order to examine Arnold's vitae), my computer screen smells like fish. It must be DA's vitae.

What is it about the record that smells? Besides pretty much everything, including the *quid pro quo* controversy described in detail by other reports here at USMNEWS.NET, there are a few things that stick out. For one, CoB marketing professor, Elizabeth LaFleur, is mentioned three times on page 12. For those familiar with things in the CoB, that statistic will not inspire confidence in Arnold's candidacy.

What's with all of the check marks? For those of you who haven't yet seen Arnold's vitae, it has check marks on it that tick off all of the administrative things that Arnold accomplished all by himself (at least that's the way they are presented) at both Frostburg State and New Mexico State. The whole thing reads like something former CoB Dean Harold Doty would write about

himself. Two of them stick out. First, Arnold writes "I inherited a situation at New Mexico State which called for many changes . . ." Sound like Doty? "I inherited . . ." . . . Sure does. Second, about Frostburg State Arnold writes that "The faculty were led to make the following changes . . ." Of course, behind this statement is a litany of check marks. The phrase, though, is the kicker. "The faculty were led . . ." Would that be by the nose ring, Danny? The whole thing sounds anything but pro-faculty governance.

None of the parts of an academic vitae that really count look as though, in Arnold's case, they've been touched in years. And, from an administrative standpoint, it doesn't appear as though Arnold is moving with any purpose. From New Mexico State to Frostburg State to USM (maybe). He's just moving. Well, if the "(maybe)" part pans out, there will at least be a little purpose to it. According to Arnold's vitae, he (Arnold) has about 17 years in the Mississippi PERS. Another eight years or so in Mississippi and he's golden. Add to that 10 years in New Mexico, and by the next stop DA might be pulling down some really big bucks. Maybe then he'll even be able "to inherit" a business school that has already straightened itself out. Maybe . . ., but the whole thing smells fishy to me.