

# What's Going on with the CAC?

by Duane Cobb

With all of the scurrying going on in Joseph Greene Hall regarding the CoB's Advisory Committee (CAC), even little more than a CoB novice can figure out that something is afoot. Red flags began to pop up when the CoB's management team decided that the EFIB could elect associate professor of legal studies Ernest King to represent the finance part of the department on the CAC. What's news about this you ask? King is not in the EFIB, he's in the School of Accountancy & Information Systems. As many are now saying, while King *can't* vote on the EFIB's CAC representation, he *can* be its CAC representative. And, while King *can't* be the SAIS' CAC representative, he *can* vote on its CAC representation. Now there's one to make Jefferson and Madison proud.

The CAC has already approved the CoB's new P&T policies. The current frenzy can't be about that one. Journal rankings are on the board again, but that task falls to the individual departments and to the CoB's newly constituted journal ranking committee, with help, of course, from the CoB's research committee. So, it can't be that one either. Upon removing these two from consideration, my next thought in all of this is: who's going up for P&T this year? The move described above to replace Lindley with King seems to be one that would work to prevent finance professor Tom Lindley from sitting on the CAC. By having King serve, both King and Lindley are prevented from voting on all applications for promotion to full professor. And whose might those be? Can you say "Henderson," and "Marvasti," and "Pate?" Don't rule out some shenanigans that result in Sami Dakhli going up (way, way) early, or even

something that is, at the present time at least, unimaginable.

The current story is that two of the CAC's members are jockeying to be chair. A fight for the chairmanship? That's even more grist for the *what's up?* mill. It seems almost certain now that a streets of Pamplona-style P&T rush is coming in 2007-08, much like what is said to have occurred when former Interim CoB Dean Roderick Posey – also of "more than 100" publications fame – occupied the second-floor Dean's Office suite in Joe Greene Hall. If current Interim Dean Alvin Williams is on board with some kind of a P&T jail-break, then we may finally know what he had in mind with his "return to civility" speech of 10 April 2007.

If all the activity seen around Greene Hall is leading up to what we suspect it is leading up to, then the individual departmental P&T committees will represent just the beginning of what will be one wild ride. Most of the "fun" will occur, however, when those dossiers reach the CAC, which is why there was so much electricity surrounding the elections for CAC representatives and why there seems to be so much energy being expended over who will get to sit on the CAC throne.

Don King used to say "Only in America." We say "Only in the CoB" – USM's CoB, that is.