

What's the Shelf-Life of Apologies in the CoB?

by Duane Cobb

It might be surprising to hear, but it has been a year since EFIB Chairman George Carter issued a public "apology" to then-CoB Dean Harold Doty for a variety of disparaging statements Carter had made about the young Dean. As Carter had put it, Doty was a nightmare to work for. Carter said that he (Carter) could remain in Doty's presence only for a minute or two before he (Carter) felt the need to exit the room, otherwise he (Carter) might say something to Doty that would be regrettable.

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CoB Dean Harold Doty?

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somebody I want to be around . . . I can't take him."

George Carter,
on his view of working with Doty,
2006

Heck, let's not sugar coat the thing – Carter referred to Doty as "a jerk," and the world got to hear about it and read about it.

Though Carter's feelings about Doty weren't explicitly known by all CoB faculty, they were known in the sense that many USM faculty and administrators despise Doty. The feeling is essentially universal, at least outside the confines of the CoB's Center for Economic Education. So, it wasn't learning what Carter thought about Doty that shocked the CoB. It was the fact that Carter so eloquently expressed his feelings about Doty that caused the tremor in Greene Hall.

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Here we are, 12 months from the day that Carter issued his so-called public "apology." According to Carter, the fact

that the statements about Doty were public demanded that the "apology" be made public. However, to many who read Carter's e-mailed note to Doty, the "apology" came across more as an "I'm sorry I got caught . . ." than it did as an "I'm sorry for saying such awful things about you . . ." And, to at least some of those same people, that, too, was "classic Carter" – the iceman.

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Since Doty's arrival, they – the CoB's old guard – wanted Doty out of the Dean's office. They were "hoping and praying [Doty would] get [another job]," but, according to Carter, "[Doty] proved he couldn't do that." Now, one year after the comments and apologies, Doty is sitting with that old guard, and on its level. One can't help but wonder if the apology has expired, and if so, what will become of Doty's prospects for the future in USM's CoB.