

GH Chatter

CoB faculty have been talking about the so-called "resignations" of former CoB Dean Harold Doty, and Doty's Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand, since the day they occurred (9-April-07). The subject came up again recently, when accounting instructor Patty Munn was asked about it by legal counsel during a deposition in a United States District Court case. Here's what Ms. Munn had to say (Q=plaintiff's legal counsel's question; A=Munn's response; USMLC=USM legal counsel's interjection):

Q. Ended up with [Harold] Doty being removed as the Dean?

A. Was that under [former USM President Shelby] Thames' watch? He was and I don't know the exact reasons, I mean I heard some reasons, but I don't know if they are right or not.

Q. What were the reasons for Doty's firing that you heard?

USMLC. I'm sorry. Dr. Doty wasn't fired.

Q. Well, that he was removed as the Dean of the college of business?

A. He resigned.

Q. Why?

A. What I heard was that there was an incident with another professor.

Q. [Farhang] Niroomand?

A. Yes. And he -- and that there was some kind of sexual harassment deal with Niroomand and that Dr. Doty did not follow-up on it or discipline Niroomand as he should have.

Q. Didn't respond appropriately?

A. That's what I heard. . . .

So, from Munn's testimony we know the CoBers have been circulating the story that Niroomand got Doty in trouble with USM's central administration. According to the stories Munn heard, Niroomand's troubles involved sexual harassment, and Doty's involved a failure to discipline Niroomand appropriately.

Accounting instructor Patty Munn's U.S. District Court testimony didn't end with her comments about former CoB Dean Harold Doty, and Doty's Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand. No, Munn went on to dish on several other CoBers in the process of being deposed. Here are some excerpts (A=Munn's response to various questions from legal counsel):

A. [Former USM President] Dr. [Shelby] Thames was very authoritarian.
. . . .

A. . . . [Former School of Professional Accountancy Director] Jim Crockett was, you know, a prince of a man. He had brought our school of accountancy to a much higher level . . .

A. [Former CoB accounting student] Judy [McQueen] is a talker and a gossip. . .

A. Stan Clark, Charles Jordan, Steve Jackson, [and] Rod Posey [told me that items like the Syracuse University Business College's academic integrity policy is n]ot any kind of scholarly research that requires footnotes. . . This [i.e., the SU academic integrity policy] was boiler plate and it was there to be used [without attribution]. . .

A. Stan Clark, Jim Henderson, Jim Crockett, Gwen Pate, Linda Staniszewski, Charles Jordan[, and] Paul Torres [discussed aspects of the novel, *Choking Dead Chickens*, with me at one time or another]. . .

GH Chatter is a series at USMNEWS that provides a glimpse at what CoB students, and sometimes CoB faculty, are discussing throughout the corridors of Joseph Greene Hall and beyond.