

George Carter: CoB Dean Slayer

Current EFIB Chair George Carter has served on the administrative teams of two deans: H. Tyrone Black and D. Harold Doty. Both of these business college administrations ended ignominiously. Black's administration came to a close at about the time that Trellis Green's lawsuit was concluded in Green's favor (1997). According to sources, Green's legal case against Carter and Black began when Carter led an effort to deny Green's bid for promotion to associate professor in 1994, and it ended when Green accepted USM's settlement offer of (1) promotion to associate professor, (2) an increase in annual pay, and (3) an undisclosed financial payment. Both Black and Carter "resigned" their positions as CBA Dean and department chair, respectively, at about the time that Green reached his settlement with USM and these two business college personnel.

Fast forward to July of 2005, when former CoB Dean D. Harold Doty called Carter into administrative service yet again, and, according to sources, in doing so, ignored the advice of some in the college. What had taken years of a Carter-led department to happen to Black was accomplished in just 21 months -- Doty "resigned" as Dean of the CoB amidst scandal and turmoil in early April of 2007. George Carter had "slain" his second Dean in just 10 years. Only this time, an Associate Dean (Farhang Niroomand) was disposed of as well.

This columnist in no way means to imply that Carter is a "Dean Slayer" in the Braveheart sense. Instead, in playing his part in the demise of two of USM's four permanent business deans through a series of ill-advised decisions/gaffes (e.g., denying Green's promotion to associate professor; promoting a "copied" AACSB document; using USM facilities to operate a business; punishing dissenters; thwarting faculty governance), Carter seems more like a "Mr. Magoo meets Trojan Horse" figure, where every dean he serves withers on the vine.

Now that Carter is honing his "administrative skills" we can't help but wonder if Alvin Williams, the CoB's new Interim Dean, will be able to survive even the 14 or 15 months of his temporary term. If Williams has been paying attention, he shouldn't give Carter the opening he needs -- a little time.