

How Much Would Doty Have Loved the New U?

A Guest Column

With [all of the talk about](#) USM becoming “the new U,” one can’t help but think that former CoB dean Harold Doty, [now the b-school dean](#) at the University of Texas at Tyler, would’ve loved to have been [CoB dean](#) now, with all of the turmoil around. Doty, and [his former lieutenant](#), former CoB [associate dean](#) Farhang Niroomand, so enjoyed chaos and turmoil during their [joint reign](#) from 2003-07, that the past two years at USM would’ve surely seemed to them like a seafood buffet on a Friday evening, after having spent all week fasting. Both [Doty](#) and [Niroomand](#) would’ve relished the opportunity to sit around, against the backdrop of \$25 million in budget cuts, and decide which CoB faculty to terminate and which to retain. There wouldn’t have been any real [vision or leadership](#) associated with the process – it would’ve simply been personal preferences. Using the cuts as a pretext, Doty would have [finished what he started with tourism management](#), finally [eliminated the CoB's real estate program](#), and disassembled the CoB’s management information systems degree much earlier than has been done.

Of course, we’ll never know how much Doty would’ve loved the way USM and Hattiesburg have (d)evolved since he departed in May of 2009. Not knowing is probably also a good thing for those in the USM family who are concerned about the direction in which the institution is heading. Had Doty stayed, the direction would be the same as now; the speed at which USM would be travelling would have been much faster with Doty directing the ride.