

Nostalgia Series: Jim

Not long ago, a former faculty member from a dozen years ago or so asked me who was who administratively in charge of the CoB now; as I ticked them off, he laughed and observed that those are pretty much who was in charge way back when. No wonder we are in the shape we are in now. Those that helped facilitate the decline and collapse of Ty Black and Bill Gunther, are now lustily doing the same to and for Harold Doty. What is the old definition of insanity? Doing the same thing over and over and expecting the results to change. This “Nostalgia Series” begins with Jim Crockett.

Jim Crockett burst onto the CBA scene and quickly whipped the Accounting Department into a group of mostly unctuous sycophants. All aboard the Crockett crusade prospered because Dean Black’s wife was in the Accounting Department, and ole Jim always made sure she was more than fairly rewarded so he could do the same for his troops. Being an old Air Force boy, Jim expected his orders to be followed with a crisp “Yes, sir!” Jim is a big believer in his way or the highway. If a faculty member did what Jim asked, he was a good boy and would be taken care of accordingly; but, if you were a bad boy or girl, you could never do enough teaching, research, or service for a correct evaluation score. The reward for Jim’s largesse was a nearly unanimous to unanimous vote on everything Jim needed. Jim could deliver. Jim did deliver. Apparently Jim cannot deliver anymore.

When concern for re-accreditation finally set in, and the lack of trust in Stan Lewis continued, the call was made to break the glass and call Jim. Dust him off, and have him return this all too familiar group to its former accredited place of honor. People seem to recall Jim not having positive words for Harold, but, at the bottom line, my enemy’s enemy is my friend, so sign Jim up for a Doty toady spot. Jim showed up occasionally to tweak on Stan’s report so he looked like he was earning that course release. The problem old Jim found was a dean that thought little of him, and more importantly, a lack of production from the vast majority of the accounting faculty. No orders of productivity, no words to Clark and/or Jordan to add selected faculty to some of their practitioner publications would work; it seems like Accounting is set to face accreditation head-on on its own merits. We all await the results from the “it will be here in 10 days” letter; since no word has been uttered about the separate Accounting re-accreditation, we can only assume there are some issues that need to be addressed.

Where does this leave old Jim? For the sake of accreditation, it needs to leave him at home. Learn to enjoy that sense of satiety, Jim. You had a high salary when they were not handed out for breathing, agreeing, and showing up 10:00 – 4:00 most days. You apparently cannot go out as a winner, but do you really want to go out like some broken-down old athlete trying to play one more season when the game and the ability to play have passed him by years ago? Poor old Jim – why doesn’t he play with all those grandchildren of his? He must not have much if this is what he wants to do with his time. You certainly were never a general, Jim, but it is time for you to just fade away.