

8-Dec-06 CoB Meeting News Bytes

George Carter admitted that neither he nor anyone else affiliated with USM authored the Participating and Supporting Faculty Standards document. He claimed that all sorts of schools are using that document for AACSB Accreditation purposes.

Commentary: Carter was smug in his statement. It seemed as though he thought that by saying it forcefully, the whole issue of plagiarism would go away. Our question: If USMPRIDE hadn't discovered the origin of the document, would CoB administrators have said anything? Not hardly.

CoB Dean Harold Doty has completed work on the first 4 of the 5 AACSB Strategic Management Standards. Doty told the CoB that he is delaying completion of the 5th as a way to leverage more money from USM Provost Jay Grimes.

Commentary: Is AACSB important, or not? When Grimes hears he's being used (again) by Doty in this way, it'll be hard for him (Grimes) to believe it is important. And, he'll (Grimes) be right in thinking so.

CoB Dean Harold Doty spoke about what should happen to CoB faculty who don't produce research. He said that the CoB shouldn't rely on current IHL policy, but should instead initiate the Plan of Action process and follow that up with termination proceedings if necessary.

Commentary: Doty and Carter (et al.) have been speaking more about firing people this last year than we've heard around the CBA/CoB in the last 30 years. Get this: He follows these bold statements about firings by supporting Bushardt's "race to the bottom" proposal to "decentralize" the evaluation process.

A new committee on Student Behaviors in the Classroom is being formed, to be Chaired by Bill Smith, so that bad behaviors will be addressed systematically by the College as a whole. Faculty spoke of the need for "policies" to address this problem. CoB Dean Doty said that faculty have to hold the line (unlike in grading and plagiarism detection) so that those faculty who clamp down are not punished by students at evaluation time.

Commentary: Our suggestion is that you become lenient and "punish" those faculty who draw the line on so-called bad classroom behavior. You'll get better evaluations than them that way. Who doesn't want *that* when you sit down with your Chair to discuss your teaching rating? Sounds like a plan.

Management Professor Stephen Bushardt proposed that the annual faculty evaluation procedure be changed so that Chairs no longer have to subject their own ratings to a review of the other Chairs and Associate Dean. Bushardt argued that the CoB's current system is too centralized and that change is good. David Duhon said that Barry Babin argued that the current system was "broken." So, because change is good and the current system is "broken," the CoB passed the new proposal from Management and Marketing.

Commentary: Everyone knows what the Management and Marketing faculty want – bigger raises for doing (or not doing) what they do (or don't do) now. During the whole discussion Bushardt and Duhon blasted "centralization." What they were really blasting was "oversight," not centralization. Now we learn that Babin thinks the current process is broken. Where was Babin last May when Doty stood before CoB faculty and spoke about how good the process was? Tom Lindley took issue with Doty, and both Doty and Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand spoke out against Lindley. Where was Babin then with the "it's broken" argument? Dean Doty, which is it --- good, or broken?

CoB Dean Harold Doty said the HVAC project is on schedule.

Commentary: Which schedule, the third one or the fourth one?

CoB faculty were told by various CoB administrators and the CoB's so-called parliamentarian (David Duhon) that written proof of proxy is not required for voting purposes.

Commentary: This is a heckuva revelation. Expect (more?) former CoB faculty to vote in the future.

CoB Dean Harold Doty said that the Accountants have voted to change their research profile towards a more practitioner-related emphasis.

Commentary: If they can do it, so can you. Expect other departments to follow-up on this with new profiles of their own. The vote on Handbook changes helps in this process.

Sources tell USMPRIDE that Associate Dean Niroomand did not attend Friday's meeting, and that he is not pleased with what occurred. While we cannot confirm the latter, we do believe that Niroomand lost a substantial amount of power through Friday's vote to "decentralize" the faculty evaluation process in the CoB. Now, Doty and Babin can allocate a large portion of the CoB's raise pool behind closed doors, and without Niroomand's participation. It's hard to believe that Friday's action and Niroomand's absence are not somehow related.