

Nostalgia Series: Rod

Dr. Roderick Posey, Baptist minister, Professor of Accounting, former Interim Associate Dean, former Associate Dean, former Interim Dean, former Associate Dean (again), and former Director of SAIS, CPA, and other fine things, such as former President of the Hattiesburg Lion's Club. When asked who you really are, many have heard you say "I'm a Baptist minister." That is a fine profession, but to the Mississippi tax payers that is supposed to be your avocation. Likewise, the use of university resources for helping run the Lion's Club when you were in charge, and running some part of your CPA practice from your "professor's office" benefited taxpayers in what manner?

Let's jump to the epitaph: Rod always went along to get along, and got by for the one reason that everyone knows, and everyone always gave knowing looks and nods about for his entire career: Rod just happens to be black. That should be a non-issue, but Rod was used many times in an effort to create "diversity". Dr. Alvin Williams was even more utilized in that manner; he occasionally remarked (paraphrasing) that the committee (or whatever the assignment) must have needed more color. The difference is Alvin Williams has administrative skills and has some visible principles. Rod was always treated better than his record earned, and Rod never seemed bothered by it. That's the rub of it. Did you really think you should be treated as well as you were, or did you simply enjoy the fruits too much? I think everyone understands not wanting to risk turning off the largesse faucet, but the real reason is more likely delusions of adequacy. You honestly believed your non-record merited such a bestowing of gifts. There is plenty of shame to go around: both the ones giving and the ones receiving share equally.

If the rumored stories concerning health issues are true, we are sorry about that. We wish bad health on no one. But that does not change the facts. If Rod wanted to change but felt he could not after all these years, that is still no excuse. Please do SAIS and the CoB the courtesy of staying retired from any administrative activity this time. If the search for a new director is productive – and that is unlikely given who is running it (please see earlier pride reports) – the new environment should not be conducive to you. The old school has recessed forever: Jerry, Jim, and Ty cannot cover for you anymore. Get the years in you need, retire, and tend to the other pursuits that you have cared about for all these years.