

Re-Directing Niroomand's SEDONA Vita, Part I

In a recent posting at www.usmpride.com, an author pointed out that Farhang Niroomand's SEDONA vita listed this entry:

"Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Director of Graduate Programs, The University of Southern Mississippi, College of Business Administration (1991- 2001)." (SEDONA Files Part 9)

Apparently Niroomand was a bit too exuberant in recording his responsibilities. The research staff searched for evidence that Niroomand was the "Director of Graduate Programs" during the period 1991 - 2001.

Before 1995, evidence of anyone in the CoB holding the title of "Director of Graduate Programs" is dubious. However, in the 1996-97 USM Undergraduate Bulletin, the following entry appears for Niroomand:

"NIROOMAND, FARHANG, Associate Professor of Economics. B.A., National University of Iran; M.A., Ph.D., Michigan State University." (1996-97 USM Undergraduate Bulletin, p. 452)

The following entry appeared earlier in the same volume:

"KING, ERNEST W., Director of Graduate Business Programs and Associate Professor of Finance and General Business. B.A., University of South Florida; J.D., Cumberland School of Law, Samford University; L.L.M., University of Miami, Florida." (1996-97 USM Undergraduate Bulletin, p. 447)

Further investigation reveals that Ernest W. King is listed as the official "Director of Graduate Business Programs" in the USM Undergraduate Bulletin from 1996-97 until 1999-00. Similar information is reflected in the USM Budget for that period. During 2000-01, the "Director of Graduate Programs" mantle was taken from King and a new title, "Director of Graduate Academic Services", was given to Stephen Bushardt, according to the 2000-01 USM Budget. Later, the change would be reflected in the 2001-02 USM Undergraduate Bulletin:

"BUSHARDT, STEPHEN CHRISTIAN, Director of Graduate Academic Services and Professor of Management. B.S.B.A., M.B.A., University of South Carolina; D.B.A., Mississippi State University." (2000-01 USM Undergraduate Bulletin, p. 471)

Bushardt served in this capacity from 2000-01 through 2003-04. During 2004-05, Bushardt was replaced on an interim basis by William C. Smith.

Beginning with 2005-06, the post was filled by Francis Daniel, who holds the position today.

Comment

The research staff isn't sure that Niroomand's SEDONA contains false information about his responsibilities prior to 1996. However, it is clear from official University of Southern Mississippi documents that Niroomand's SEDONA file misrepresented his actual responsibilities from 1996-2001. It is clear that Niroomand was not the "Director of Graduate Programs" during that period.

Additionally, this instance of misrepresentation illustrates another point. Niroomand was completely willing to steal a title from Ernest King, but apparently had some reservation about stealing the title from Stephen Bushardt, William Smith, or Francis Daniel. Perhaps Niroomand views institutional memory as so short or so fleeting that such a grab would go undetected. Not so.

Niroomand's stolen title is just one more item for the Niroomand Must Step Down movement. An administrator who is willing to puff up his vita by stealing titles from others does not exhibit the ethics necessary to serve.