

Perks for Buds IX The McCarty Professorship

Dr. Chang Hsieh is a Professor of MIS and the McCarty Professorship holder for many years. This professorship is awarded for a two-year term. Hsieh has held onto this prize for several terms in a row. The assumption is because of a lack of genuine competition for it since Don Davis retired. As usual, there is more at work here than that.

Who else in MIS is deserving of this recognition? When Stan Lewis was here, he was never seriously considered due to a lack of research production. While true, he was a former chair of the area, and always the designated leader for the area throughout his career; is that not worthy of consideration? What about Donna Davis? She has research production, is a full professor, and has high visibility on campus for her service duties. Her research numbers may be down the last few years, but that is because of high service demands on her time; her research is in known and ranked journals in the field. Don't we expect more service from senior professors? How about Scott Magruder? He has probably the most burdensome teaching load, but that is due to the almost total lack of research production and service contributions. It is unlikely would ever be considered for the McCarty Professorship. Dr. Chen? Newly tenured and promoted through the travails of the tenure and promotion process. Her language impediments eliminate her from competition; that, and the fact that most of her publications are multi-authored and in lesser outlets. Her regular comments about how she and her colleagues (meaning, as far as anyone can tell, her Asian colleagues at various schools) work together in networks to help each other get publications does not buoy her consideration. This also raises the specter concerning some of Hsieh's publications for the same reasons. What about using the McCarty as a recruiting tool for new faculty members? There are two new MIS hires for this fall. Why not award the McCarty to whichever one has done the best, or shows the most promise, after this year? Typically such talk in the CoB has met with swift and highly negative reactions because the few professorships are viewed as entitlements for a select group.

Does this all mean Dr. Hsieh should retain the McCarty for yet another two years? If he remains at USM, the signs look good for him. First, he is in one of the select groups. He "co-authored" with several administrators through the years to get such protections. Hopefully such reward systems will stop with Dean Nail. Second, he seldom, if ever, publicly disagrees; he will wear out administrators between closed doors when he seeks what he wants. The CoB has historically rewarded such behavior. Third, he can seemingly conjure up whatever number of publications he desires or needs; this also can mean he can do so with select co-authors. Being an editor of, and on the editorial board of, quite a few journals certainly is helpful in this area. Lastly, the McCarty, much like the Morgan Professorship in Accounting, is cloaked in the entitlement mindset. No one feels more entitled than Dr. Hsieh. The bottom line for the McCarty is the same as the Morgan, or the Kaetsu professorships: they are 100% subjective; they are perks for buds.