

Perks for Buds

This new series will highlight undeserved benefits given to CoB faculty members by administrators in the College. Needless to say, given the many things disclosed on this site, this series could run a very long time.

The new proposed MBA program changes the MBA 600 course again. For the time being we will omit a discussion of why the Graduate Programs Committee seemed so determined to change the MBA program a short time ahead of the College getting a new dean. The obvious answer is not progress, but the usual shenanigans of trying to get something in place that cannot be immediately changed by a new dean. MBA 600 was known as the “ethics course” in the MBA program for years. When originally implemented, Dr. Don Robin, an ethics scholar, taught the course. It was usually not the students favorite course (for many reasons), but they were exposed to a lot of material and probably learned from the course. When Dr. Robin retired and departed for Wake Forest University, George Carter was put into the course.

What does George Carter know about this course? Only the negative side, which, apparently, he did not teach; that would have been an interesting course – it would have been much like the criminals-turned-ethics-lecturers brought to Southern Miss: do as I say, not as I do. Rumor has it Carter took an undergraduate ethics course to have a bluff at the course. He spent a lot of time railing against lawyers – I guess he should know they can be no fun when they are on your tail [please see the Trellis Green lawsuit series]. Old George was given the course George would have a set two course (typically five-week) summer load. He continued this for too long. Many graduate students reported it was a complete waste of time and energy. On the bright side for the study-abroad people, George increased enrollment in British Studies because students could substitute a course there for MBA 600. After Carter inexplicably returned to the helm of EFIB, and finally felt secure enough to do so (and/or had his inflated salary pumped up so much that he could let some course overload money go to other people), Ken Zantow was named to replace Carter in MBA 600.

Traditionally in the CoB, all core classes were viewed as belonging to the faculty; not a department, a department chair, or even the dean. This was a universal truth unless a bud needed a perk. Enter Harold Doty and buddy Ken Zantow. Please see the many entries on them on this site. No one was asked about this as far as can be determined when this staffing change was made. Did Zantow teach this course elsewhere? Publish in this area? Well, he was a big bud of Doty and this gave him what old George received previously. Not only that, since he is on the Coast, it added another layer of obfuscation to the decision and could be spun to the central administration as a love and equal use of Coast faculty. Who cares what the graduate students need?

Now the Graduate Programs Committee has “redesigned” MBA 600 to give the Management faculty carte blanche to create a management course in place of the ethics course. Why? It is an MBA course, *not* a management course. There are a sufficient number of management classes in the proposed program now. Could it be because Doty

is on the Graduate Programs Committee and would love to pontificate in the class? He can take over the Bushardt role of having one class, no matter what it is named or numbered. The idea of Doty teaching this class makes as much sense as putting the ousted dean on the Committee at all. Perhaps the CoB is returning to the very old days when the professors that were not the best teachers were put into the program to hide them because the focus was on the undergraduate programs. Some are still there. Some things never change in the CoB. Let's hope that last statement does change under Dean Nail.

In addition to plenty of other speakers, in the spring semester the CoB entertained Walt Pavlo, one of the MCI criminals-turned-speakers. He stressed that business students need as much law and ethics training as they possibly can get. Looking over past catalogues, the MBA program has never contained a law course of any kind at the 600-level, and now the ethics course they did have, as diluted as it had become, is gone as well. Typical CoB "progress", isn't it? Student needs are irrelevant as long as administrators' buddies are well taken care of.

We look forward to July 1st.