

Perks for Buds XVII Musical Professorships – MIS

The McCarty Professorship was established to provide additional financial rewards for MIS research. In reality, the McCarty Professorship (MP) has lost most of its prestige and meaning after Don Davis relinquished it. Chang Hsieh, Professor of MIS, has occupied the MP for years, mostly by default. Even though the money is in the MP for summer salary without teaching (hint: research) and for travel, rumors have circulated for years that Hsieh is receiving generous travel funding support in addition to the MP funds available. This allowed (and allows) him to see family and friends throughout the world by tying visits to meetings or other events. He also is rumored to have attended meetings paid for by vendors. While Dr. Hsieh certainly has many publications, the suspicion cloud always hovers because of his journal editorships and relationships with other editors and authors. It all seems too inter-twined, too comfortable, and too mechanical. Regardless of that, it is time to allow the MP to infuse new life into CoB MIS research. Donna Davis is said to be retiring at the end of June, so she need not be considered. Scott Magruder does not usually participate in research, so he is excluded. The best scenario for a solid use of the MP is to divide it in half for the two new MIS faculty members: Barry Cumbie (new out of Auburn) and Dale Lunsford (returning to USM after a multi-year absence). Rumor has it that these two MIS professors are producing and have the ability to produce solid MIS research publications for USM's CoB. Wouldn't that set the tongues wagging that a research professorship was awarded to faculty members actually researching? Better than that, it would be an end to another CoB perk for buds.