

Promises, Promises

Yet More Embarrassment Across Campus for the CoB

The [1-Sept-09 minutes](#) from the University Research Council (URC) contained some interesting dialogue involving CoB economist Edward Nissan. At the top of Section 4, which is entitled **Council Membership**, the URC secretary recorded the following:

There are a number of vacancies to be filled. Dr. Edward Nissan talked of his plans to retire although he has made the statement that this will be my last year for the last five years. He did plan to retire this year.

Apparently, for the past five years Nissan has been telling URC members that he is planning to retire at the end of the (fill in the blank) year. Why would he do this? Sources say it works to prevent the URC from assigning Nissan to time-consuming tasks, meaning that other URC members have likely spent the past five years doing *more than* their share of the URC workload. Judging by the tone of the URC secretary, Nissan's "game" did not go unnoticed by the others in the URC.

What you see above is a common occurrence involving USM's b-schoolers. Some use the "I am planning to retire" game to get undeserved promotions, unwarranted teaching load reductions, and pardons from time-consuming service duties. Nissan is a prime example. BEDS chairperson Donna Davis is another. The CoB's accountants have been successful with this particular strategy. While this ploy works well for its practitioners, it also works against having a college that functions properly. In terms of the CoB, it's just another step in the staircase that leads down to dysfunction.