

Quotable Doty

5th Edition: Career Services in the CoB

“‘We expect this will make our college graduates more attractive to corporations, and at the same time, provide a professional setting where our students may present themselves in the best way possible,’ Doty said.”¹

The previous quote was CoB Dean Harold Doty speaking of the new CoB Career Services Interview Suite completed in 2004. As the release outlines, a classroom was commandeered by Doty for the purpose. Why didn’t USM have interview space for students and companies already? It did!

Located in McLemore Hall, USM Career Services has provided resume assistance, interviewing technique coaching, and interview space for years under the guidance of Russell Anderson. For Doty, however, the university-wide Career Services office presented an opportunity for a vita building activity, even if it meant a sizeable expenditure and loss of classroom space. Besides, it just wouldn’t do to have business students having to mingle with students from education or chemistry.

Also, it surely wouldn’t do for business students to have to share career counselors with those types of people. Doty had already hired Amy Yeend to serve as Career Services officer for the CoB, performing all the tasks offered by Anderson and his staff. McLemore is, after all, such a long way from Greene Hall, and it’s a little too much to ask that business students invest a little time in their own career development.

Doty expected that the new Career Services office and the interview space would “provide a professional setting where our students may present themselves in the best way possible”. Since the entire second floor of Greene Hall (including the interview rooms) is under renovation for the entire fall semester, we can only wonder what business majors will do now that their fancy new interview suite has been derailed by Doty’s HVAC plan. Will they make the arduous trek to McLemore Hall? Only if they want to have a job when they graduate.

The CoB Career Services Interview Suite is another example of a vanity project that Doty can use as a talking point when on job interviews, as he did at the University of South Florida. We are left to wonder about the cost of the project, which has not been disclosed. However, the benefit must be weighed against the loss of space as well as the money spent, and the cultural damage and sense of entitlement created by Doty’s mindset cannot be overestimated. To paraphrase a student from the Marketing and PR release, it’s just a little too much to ask students to travel to prospective employers’ places of business to interview, so they should come to the students. That’s the signal Doty apparently wants to send to USM’s students: the World should come to you. After all, that’s the way Doty lives his life, right?

¹ “New Interview Suite Brings Students, Companies Together Under One Roof” USM Marketing and PR Release, June 23, 2004. Available online at <http://www.usm.edu/pr/prnews/june04/intvsuites.htm>