

USMNEWS.NET BREAKING NEWS

Saunders Speak out Against Administration Abuse of Faculty

HATTIESBURG – On just her first official day in office, new USM President Martha Saunders has spoken out against the kinds of abuses of faculty that have been uncovered in USM’s College of Business in recent months and years, and reported by staffers here at USMNEWS.NET. While also speaking to a group of USM student leaders on 21 May 2007, Saunders told Rachel Leifer Norman, a reporter for *The Hattiesburg American*, that one of her main goals as USM President will be to spend “a lot of time focusing on how [USM] . . . treat[s]” its faculty. An excerpt of Norman’s 22 May 2007 *THA* article, “Saunders begins USM presidency,” is inserted below.

Saunders begins USM presidency

By RACHEL LEIFER NORMAN

"I really want to spend a lot of time focusing on how we recruit and treat the people who teach here - students come and go, but faculty stay," Saunders said. "I want this to be a place known as somewhere you want to work, where you want to earn tenure and spend your career."



REBECCA LATIMER | Hattiesburg American
University of southern mississippi President Martha Dunagin Saunders, right, greets student leaders on her first day of work Monday before a luncheon with the students at the Thad Cochran Center.

Though pleased to see such a public proclamation, sources inside the CoB tell USMNEWS.NET that Saunders will have her work cut out for her when it comes to controlling some of the current and former administrators in the CoB. Former Dean Harold Doty (resigned), former Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand (resigned), former Chair of MgtMkt Barry Babin (resigned; moving to Louisiana Tech), EFIB Chair George Carter and SAIS Director Stanley Lewis comprise what was referred to by a source as the “CoB’s Gang of 5” (see below). Niroomand’s mistreatment of faculty and staff in the CoB, now legendary, is described quite well in a recent USMNEWS.NET report entitled “Disturbance.” That report examined the events leading up to the request for USM Police Department assistance in “breaking up” the CoB’s spring 2007 faculty meeting, presided over by Interim CoB Dean Alvin Williams.

Former Dean Harold Doty ended his failed administration of the CoB on a “termination spree” that included the delivery of terminal letters to at least three (3), and possibly five (5), CoB

The CoB Gang of 5



Harold Doty



Farhang Niroomand



Barry Babin



George Carter



Stanley Lewis

faculty. Babin, who is moving on to chair a department in the business school at Louisiana Tech University, hammered several management and marketing faculty – through the Annual Review of Faculty process (spring 2007) – on his way out of Greene Hall. SAIS Director Stanley Lewis, following Babin’s lead, *actually inserted reference to rumor and innuendo as a basis for one SAIS faculty’s annual evaluation* for calendar year 2006 (done in spring 2007). As USMNEWS.NET readers are now aware, the SAIS is now reeling over a disastrous AACSB Peer Review Team visit (and report) from February of 2007. And, perhaps the worst of them all is current EFIB Chair George Carter, known by several CoB faculty as “the Smiling Assassin.” Like Niroomand, Carter’s abuses of faculty are well-documented here at USMNEWS.NET. However, a source has provided new, and disturbing, insights about Carter’s role in Doty’s “termination spree” of 2006-07. It seems that Carter has recently been telling current and prospective EFIB faculty that “the troublemakers” will be expunged from the EFIB in the near future, thus (in his view) making the CoB (EFIB) a good place to work again.

How Saunders reacts to those remaining in the so-called Gang of 5 remains to be seen. When, and if, any “reaction” occurs, USMNEWS.NET will be on the scene providing up-to-date reports.