

Silence = Concurrence

On September 19, 2006, George Carter manipulated the USM Faculty Handbook and violated the spirit of faculty governance to effect a change in EFIB's governance structure. Carter shirked his duties as EFIB chair to politic and buy support for his plans. It was clear that some of the EFIB faculty who are loyal to Carter had been privy to the fact that Carter was planning an unpublicized re-vote. It was also clear that groundwork had been laid to coerce or to give certain individuals incentive to vote in a certain way. Farhang Niroomand (who had missed the first EFIB governance vote) carried two proxy votes in hand (belonging to Weihua Shi and Farooq Malik, USMGC faculty), despite the fact that none of the communication from Carter to the department as a whole indicated that a vote was to be taken. Bill Gunther, who has attended approximately one faculty meeting of any kind since being fired as CoB Dean by Shelby Thames in January 2003, even chose this particular occasion to show up. Carter's despicable actions and the miscarriage of justice that followed have been documented at www.usmpride.com.

Since that time, most non-EFIB CoB faculty have either remained silent or have only privately voiced their opinions that the EFIB illegitimate vote situation was wrong. However, the administrator spin machine kicked into high gear. Carter buddy Stephen Bushardt has been neck deep in the situation, even reportedly going outside the CoB to try to gain support for Carter's deplorable move. Carter sock puppet Charles Sawyer has been consistently making the rounds within and without EFIB, making the case to anyone and everyone who will listen that Carter had to do what he did to "stop some bad things from happening." Just what bad things would have happened? I challenge Charles Sawyer to publicly enumerate the bad things that would have happened had Mark Klinedinst and Tom Lindley been included in the EFIB governance structure. I assert that neither Sawyer nor any of Carter's other cronies have the guts to stand up and confront anyone with their slander. Carter himself can provide no evidence to support his claims made in the illegitimate meeting. Carter's feelings were hurt, his abilities challenged, and his leadership questioned; he had to strike back. Seeing no legal manner of recourse, he circumvented the USM Faculty Handbook and misled EFIB faculty in his desperate attempt to regain control of EFIB.

Yes, most CoB faculty have remained silent on this stunning and outrageous move by someone who daily appears more and more to be one of the CoB's most corrupt and evil administrators. However, action has been taken. CoB faculty with national reputations are currently taking action against Carter's tyranny. A formal grievance process against Carter has been initiated under the USM Faculty Handbook in addition to independent investigations by the USM Chapter of AAUP, the USM Faculty Senate, and a continuing investigation by researchers at www.usmpride.com. Carter's actions threaten to make the USM Faculty Handbook meaningless, which threatens all of the faculty protections contained therein. This plantation-style administrative power grab must be and will be stopped. Those faculty who remain silent on the issue are endorsing Carter's actions, because, in this issue, Silence Equals Concurrence. If you remain silent on this issue, then you, in effect, sanction and support the ability of an administrator to violate the USM Faculty Handbook just because he or she doesn't like the outcome of a faculty vote.