

## *Special Report*

### **Still not Convinced Harold Doty was Fired by USM?**

**Check Out What He was Saying Just 5 Days Before 9-April-07**

The official line from USM on 9-April-07, 10-April-07 and thereafter was and has been that former CoB Dean, Harold Doty, resigned from the position on 9-April-07. Despite such proclamations from the top execs at USM, a recent [report](#) published here at USMNEWS.NET that contains a more complete text of EFIB Chair George Carter's public denigration of Doty was used in a *31st & Pearl column* to make a quite convincing case that Doty was instead fired. The conclusion of the *31st & Pearl* columnist was subsequently supported by a recent report entitled [Was Harold Doty Fired by USM?](#) Like so many other investigative reports here at USMNEWS.NET, this recent report relied on internal CoB documents, including Doty's own correspondence (with AACSB officials).

If the previous reports and editorials available here at USMNEWS.NET leave any doubt in readers' minds about the actual, behind-the-scenes details of the 9-April-07 resignations of former CoB Dean Harold Doty and his Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand, then the details in this report will likely go the remaining distance in providing what readers need to be convinced that former USM President and Provost, Shelby Thames and Jay Grimes, acted with the blessing of President-Appointee, Martha Saunders, in removing Doty from office. The case made by this report comes once again via Doty's own words. This time those words came in much closer proximity to "resignation" day, 9-April-07, as indicated by Brittany Brown's news story on 5-April-07 for *The Student Printz*, USM's student newspaper. Brown's news story entitled "Saunders visits USM campus today," was a timely, "breaking news" story informing the USM community that Wisconsin-Whitewater's Saunders was expected to be named as USM's new President that very day -- Thursday, 5-April-07.

With the buzz that Saunders, a USM alumna, would become USM's new President, Brown hit the pavement, most likely on Wednesday, 4-April-07, to get the mood of the campus. One of Brown's interviews was with then-CoB Dean, Harold Doty. Brown's news item, including the Doty interview, is inserted below. It is followed by additional analysis.

### **Saunders visits USM campus today**

**Brittany Brown**

**Issue date:** 4/5/07 **Section:** News

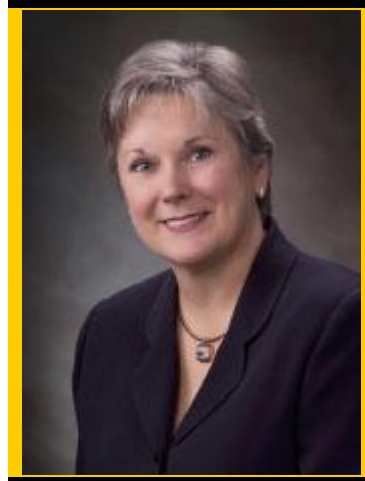
Martha Dunagin Saunders could be named as the next president of USM in a few hours.

Students, faculty and other groups today meet Saunders, the state College Board's preferred candidate to become USM's ninth president, who is attending day long interviews with constituents in the Thad Cochran Center.

Saunders' day began at 7:30 a.m. with breakfast with vice presidents and will continue hour-long meetings with deans, students, faculty, various organizations and community representatives.

The College Board will meet at 5:30 p.m. to review constituent feedback and announce at a press conference following the meeting if Saunders is president. If not, the search will continue.

"The air of positive anticipation is exciting to feel on campus," said Margie Jepson, director of Marketing and Public Relations.



Many students, faculty members and administrators are prepared to meet Saunders with questions and concerns.

Students:

Ashley Cangelosi, chief of staff for the Student Government Association, plans to ask Saunders about an open-door policy.

"I want to know that if I have a concern all I have to do is call and schedule an appointment to meet with the president," she said, adding she had that rapport with President Shelby F. Thames.

"It's very important for our president to have an open-door policy to build community among students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the university," Cangelosi said.

Cangelosi said with ongoing construction and new buildings, she's curious about Saunders' plans for fundraising.

"All these building projects and renovations take money," she said. "I'd like to know what her plans are for fundraising to assure we always have that growth and expansion."

Vince Fabra, Student Government Association president, said he plans to meet with Saunders later to address the SGA budget but is planning today to discuss the student body's role in Saunders' plan.

"This first interview will set the tone with my administration and the university administration," he said. "I hope to put the best foot forward of the student body and of the Student Government Association."

Deans and Faculty:

Harold Doty, dean of the College of Business, is excited to ask Saunders, "What things can we do as deans that will help your transition into the university so it can continue the outstanding progress and accelerate the pace of that progress?"

Doty said he "has an advantage" since he's "old friends" with Chris Clements, College of Business and Economics dean at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where Saunders currently serves as

chancellor.

"I've talked to Chris about [Saunders] and her reports are very positive," Doty said.

"She's fair. She's smart. She's highly respected by faculty, and her best quality is her ability with external relations."

That combination, Doty said, is exactly what deans want in a new president.

"She's everything we asked for, and we're ready to move forward," Doty said.

Stephen Judd, Faculty Senate president elect, is anxious to hear Saunders' answers to a list of 13 questions sent to her from the Faculty Senate.

"They're kind of like the big questions that we're interested in at this point," Judd said about the list composed by Faculty Senate members.

Judd said the questions include what Saunders would do during her first 90 days as president, how she would consider and fill senior administrative positions and how she would move the Gulf Coast campus forward.

"There will be a number of occasions later for us to focus on questions, but today we're looking for larger things that would frame her approach to the presidency."

Administrators:

Joan Exline, assistant to the president for Accreditation, Planning and Articulation, is anxious to her Saunders' strategic plans for the university.

"Her credentials suggest she has strong experience in my areas of responsibility - accreditation, planning and community college relations," Exline said.

"It is time to initiate the strategic plans for 2008 - 2011, so I'd like to hear about her vision for that process."

Joe Paul, vice president of Student Affairs is looking forward "with great enthusiasm" to meeting Saunders today.

"I am sure we will have conversation about academics, research, planning, budgeting and student life. Our main questions will be about how we can help her in this important transition."

Brown reported that Doty was excited to ask Saunders what the current USM Deans could do that would assist Saunders' transition into the university so that it could continue, and accelerate, its already outstanding progress. Two things about Doty's quote are noteworthy. First, what is he (Doty) talking about when he uses the phrases "outstanding progress" and "accelerating the pace of [outstanding] progress"? At that time, 4-April-07, Doty was sitting on the news that the CoB was facing a 6th Year Probationary Review from its accrediting authority, the AACSB. Second, and more important for this story, does Doty's "teacher's pet"-style comment/question sound like someone who is *only 5 days* from submitting his resignation? Hardly.

Let's continue. Next, Doty brags to Brown that he (Doty) "has an advantage" over other USM constituencies when it comes to gauging Saunders because Doty's "old friend" Chris Clements, the College of Business and Economics Dean at UW - Whitewater, has been relaying news of Saunders' leadership style to Doty.<sup>1</sup> As Doty told Brown, Clements' reports on Saunders were positive, indicating that Saunders is "fair," "smart," "respected by faculty," and very talented when it comes to "external relations." According to Doty, that combination of qualities is "exactly what deans want in a new president." Doty concluded his speaking-for-the-Deans campaign by telling Brown, "[s]he's everything we asked for, and we're ready to move forward."<sup>2</sup>



**Chris Clements**

Just as in his correspondence with AACSB visitor, Ted Cummings, Doty's interaction with Brown in early April of 2007 portrays him as a kid at Christmas. He's full of energy and excited. He's also oozing with gratuitous praise and admiration of those he's depending on. He does not, in any way, appear to be a person who is writing a farewell speech, especially not one he plans on delivering to Thames and Grimes *in only 5 days*.

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<sup>1</sup> The "..academics/colleges.." page on the UW-Whitewater website states: "The College of Business and Economics is Wisconsin's premier business school." This statement sounds like it was lifted right out of USM's "playbook." According to sources, Clements, like Doty, received a PhD in management from UT-Austin.

<sup>2</sup> For another look at the text of Brown's story, see [Saunders Visits USM Campus Today](#).