

## The Apology That Was Not

On Saturday, December 23, 2006, Dr. George Carter, Chairman of EFIB, sent an email to the EFIB Department with copies to the deans and other chairs in the CoB. The email is addressed to “Dean Doty” and pretends to be an apology. The email accomplishes several things, but acting as an apology is not one of them. That is a personal problem for Dr. Carter and Dean Doty. What it does do bears further examination.

Dr. Carter admits he made the statements concerning Dr. Doty attributed to him on the pride board. While his admission is specific to a certain set of his disparaging comments about Doty, it is obvious that all of Dr. Carter’s other comments about other CoB faculty and administrators are also authentic. The deeply ironic part of Dr. Carter’s comments is that most of the CoB faculty would agree with many of those statements. The focus of this admission has to be how can Dean Doty allow this person to serve as an administrator for him when he cannot stand the sight of Doty and thinks he is not qualified to be dean? Will Dr. Carter remain a Chairman when the spring semester starts? If so, why? What does that say about Doty?

The most troubling part of this faux apology is Carter’s pathetic attempt to blame a junior faculty member, one who he has continuously hounded, for this situation. This rings as hollow as a pre-execution apology and plea for forgiveness. The fact that Carter claims to have made these comments about Doty to a junior faculty member – much less one Carter does not like – speaks to Carter’s lack of judgment. With an all too familiar ring, Carter means he is sorry he was caught, the comments were publicized, and Doty is now forced to act. This is simply another example of Dr. Carter’s lack of judgment and another reason why he cannot remain in the position he now occupies.

In addition to lacking judgment, Carter is arrogant about the entire situation. Blame the audience. Blame the messenger. Blame the Internet. A true apology does not try to shift the blame to another for your “transgressions”. Carter increases the arrogance of the email by attempting to paint a target on a junior faculty member; are you trying to signal to your cabal to attack this faculty member? Do you want this attack to continue because of your actions? Does that sound ethical, Dr. Carter?

What were you trying to accomplish with the timing of this email, Dr. Carter? Were you looking for a Doty Christmas present of forgiveness and job security? If you wanted to apologize early on, you know - **know** - you said everything attributed to you. Why not confess and really apologize to Doty long ago? Why not send this apology to the entire College instead of asking other chairs to forward it for you? Why the charade that everything on the board is wrong, twisted, or taken out of context? Hasn’t that been your mantra? What about all the other statements about other administrators and faculty members? Don’t you think they now know you really made those statements too, George? Are you not sorry for those statements? Or are those irrelevant because they cannot fire you as chairman?

In lieu of an apology to the department and college, consider a letter of immediate resignation. That would save Doty from having to remove you, and perhaps allow the department and college

to return to a less turbulent environment. Surely you do not want to have to return to your first love of teaching and research, do you, Dr. Carter?