

The Carter Bunch

A Look at How George Carter's Politics May Ruin the Nail Administration

Have no doubts about it, EFIB chairman George Carter is on a mission to bring down the new Lance Nail administration of USM's College of Business. And, with the hiring and firing and "friendraising" efforts he has made over the past two decades, he may indeed pull it off before it is all over. This column is **Part 1** in a three-part series of opinion pieces that will attempt to explain just how Carter may pull off the *coup* that some in the CoB are hoping for and others are nervous about.

Part 1 is entitled "**The Carter Bunch**" for a reason. It details the core group of faculty, all from Carter's home department (the EFIB) that comprises the backbone of Carter's geopolitical-type struggle against Nail's new administration. That core group consists of the nine EFIB faculty pictured below:



At the head of the group is Carter, who is pictured in the middle of the bottom row above. Carter is so *infamous* in CoB circles that he warrants [his own set of pages](#) here at USMNEWS.net. It is there that readers of USMNEWS.net are invited to peruse stories about Carter's [summer teaching schedule shenanigans](#) and his notorious [overload pay for](#)

[friends](#) program. There one will also see reports on Carter's [use of USM facilities](#) to operate a [private enterprise](#). Carter is also the individual known for [using 12 years](#) over an almost two-decade period to achieve tenure, a process usually applied to academicians over a five or six year period. And, though there is so much more to cover concerning Carter, by presiding over one of the [darkest days](#) in CoB history, Carter is one of few CoB faculty whose actions form the basis for additional pages here at USMNEWS.net.

The preceding shows just what Carter has to lose by having to exist under a non-compliant Nail administration. Conversely, the text above also shows what Carter has to gain (back) by mounting a political phalanx aimed at Nail. How can Carter pull this off? It can be done with the help of the associates pool that he has tirelessly filled throughout the years. That pool begins with former CoB associate dean Farhang Niroomand (shown above, middle of top row), known well for his role as the CoB's bully-in-residence from 1998-2007. The [Nostalgia Series](#) entry about Niroomand paints a vivid picture of the man. But, there's more. Niroomand's love of [travel](#) (and being away from USM) is plenty reason for him to join the Carter coalition against the first dean hired since 1998 *not* to call Niroomand into associate dean service. After all, this is the same man who spent \$75,000 [in travel](#) over just a 59-month period. Mind boggling? You bet! There is so much to read about Niroomand perhaps it is best you start [here](#).

As if Carter couldn't do so by himself, Niroomand brings two others into the fold. These are Akbar Marvasti (shown above, far right of middle row) and Farooq Malik (shown above, far right of top row). These two, along with Niroomand, benefited from the [Persianization of the 2007 merit raise process](#) in the CoB.¹ Carter and Niroomand gave Malik a \$20,000 raise by re-titling him -- from economist to finance instructor -- just before the 2007-08 academic year. Now earning \$95,000 per year, when all other assistant professors of economics at his level are earning around \$75,000 per year, Malik is virtually owned by Carter and Niroomand. Similarly, Marvasti is also controlled by Carter. According to sources, former EFIB job search guru, Charles Sawyer, informed EFIB faculty (during the 2006-07 search process in which Marvasti was hired) that Marvasti relinquished his tenured position at the University of Houston -- Downtown because Marvasti's "protector" was no longer around. Sawyer also indicated that Marvasti's 1985-1990 stint at East Carolina University ended due to tenure difficulties. Marvasti, however, maintains that the ECU stint was "visiting." What we do [know](#) about Marvasti is that he engaged, [with the help of Sawyer](#), in an *unscrupulous* promotion-to-full professor gambit.

A member of the EFIB's "Quick-Strike Promotion & Raise" [trio](#), EFIB economist Sami Dakhliya (shown above, far left of top row) brings a little of everything and a lot of some things prized by Carter in an EFIB hire. Handed a [terminal contract](#) by faculty at the University of Alabama before coming to the CoB in 2006, Dakhliya is, to use Carter's term, the consummate "academic pariah." As we all know, "academic pariahs" are easy to control. Carter, however, sweetens the pot. Participation in the "Quick-Strike Promotion & Raise" Program does that. Having Dakhliya get into [sticky](#) situation [after](#) sticky [situation](#) does not hurt Carter's cause either. And like Marvasti, Dakhliya [owes](#) past CoB administrators, [such as](#) Carter and Niroomand, and former faculty, [such as](#) Sawyer.

¹ Niroomand even attempted to [expand his political base](#) during the 2007-08 hiring process.

As far as former CBA dean-turned-EFIB economist William Gunther (shown above, far left of middle row) is concerned, the [sinecure](#) that is his BBER [directorship](#) is enough to keep him solidly in the Carter-Niroomand coalition. Gunther's [activities as CBA dean](#) from 1998-2003 only add to the potential problems he faces in a changing environment in the CoB. Nail has likely gotten the scoop on Gunther from officials and others at the University of Alabama. Knowing that, Gunther will benefit from remaining allied with Carter and Niroomand.

The [shenanigan](#) that was Carter's move of IB instructor John Lambert (shown above, middle of second row) into a tenure-track line after the 2006-07 academic year is enough to keep the Internet-trained Lambert in the Carter fold. Lambert, who earned a master's from the University of Phoenix and a DBA from Grenoble -- both cyberspace operations -- is, according to sources, one of the weakest faculty ever hired by the CoB. Sources also indicate that the folly that was the Carter-Sawyer hiring process that brought Lambert to USM would provide enough material for an entire set at the Comedy Store. Lambert cast an *illegal* faculty governance vote on [Black Tuesday](#), a vote cast by the then-*visiting* faculty in Sept-06 after an early morning meeting with Carter, and later sat by silently as Carter explained, in the fall of 2007, that *visiting* faculty like FIN's Hsiao-Fen Yang were not part of the "corps of instruction" and, therefore, were *ineligible* to vote on faculty governance. Lambert has "complicit" written all over his forehead.

Economics professor Mark Klinedinst (shown above, far left of bottom row) has not published an indexed journal article since 1998! That fact has been [stated](#) time and again on the pages of various reports and editorials here at USMNEWS.net. Both of Klinedinst's USM promotions were [questionable at best](#). Combined with other problems, including a failed chairmanship of EFIB from 2003-05, these issues give Klinedinst nowhere to turn but to Carter.

Even Carter cronies, such as Charles Sawyer, have taken it on the chin so that Carter can [reward](#) long-time friend Edward Nissan (shown above, far right of bottom row). Those rewards have come from Carter given the benefits that Carter has reaped from [slipstreaming](#) of Nissan's research efforts. Of course, Carter and others have repaid Nissan in salary, [politicized journal rankings](#), as well as [substitute teaching](#) so that Nissan can spend time in [England](#) and [elsewhere](#). Nissan might not help supplant Nail with his actual vote. But, his proxy is available for Carter et al. to use as they see fit.

This core coalition of Carter supporters is plenty big enough to dominate the political scene in the EFIB. Though it is not large enough to effect political decisions by itself in the CoB, it is the nucleus of a group that is large enough to do so. The outer rings of this potential group are discussed in the next two installments of this series.