

The Master of the Routing Sheet

There it is. It's in your mailbox. You may have seen it in others' mailboxes, but it finally made it to you. It's the EFIB Faculty Routing Sheet. What is the EFIB Faculty Routing Sheet? If you're not on the EFIB faculty, we need to explain that right now. It's the alphabetically organized list of EFIB faculty that serves as a cover page for documents that EFIB chair George Carter thinks EFIB faculty should review, including items such as grant writing opportunities and the Spring QEP initiative. Carter reviews the documents, attaches the EFIB Faculty Routing Sheet, initials next to his name, and hands it off to another EFIB faculty member via that faculty member's departmental mailbox in JGH 309. It is up to the individual faculty members to read the information (or not), initial, and pass it along to another EFIB faculty member via the same mechanism.

If this sounds pretty complicated, you don't know the half of it. Sometimes, the document packet may sit in (for instance) Bill Gunther's mailbox from Friday until Tuesday, making no progress for at least four days. Recently, we noticed that one junior faculty member – in lieu of initials – wrote "I got this paperwork on the due date" or some similar message when he had finally received the information on a USM grant program on the date that grant submissions were due. Five hours not enough time to put together a complete grant proposal? Tough luck. This instance illustrates the flaw in Carter's method – there's no control over when one even finds out about the opportunities, much less any assurance that sufficient time would be available to participate in the opportunity. Maybe next time that junior faculty member will get the EFIB Faculty Routing Sheet a little sooner. Maybe he won't get it at all. Who knows? That's part of the fun of being in EFIB.

A better (and more common sense) solution would be to send an email to the EFIB faculty stating that information pertaining to a grant or other program is available in the mail room of JGH 309. The information could be housed in a folder, and EFIB faculty could peruse it and, if interested, make a copy for his or her use. That way, everyone would know when opportunities arose and could have access at his or her convenience. However, Carter must have a convoluted procedure for everything in his attempt to add to the bureaucracy that is the EFIB, the CoB, and USM. Without a bureaucracy, Carter's value to the CoB would be even less than it is now, and it's currently running in the negative.

Just what does Carter do all day? Apparently he has time to create more bureaucracy, create punitive teaching schedules, and plot power grabs. One can only think that he also spends time thinking of ways to funnel money to his cronies. Of course, this is all sanctioned by Farhang Niroomand and Harold Doty and, more probably, at their request.

Once again, Ladies and Gentlemen – George Carter, the Company Man.