

The Wheels on the Bus

Musical Chairs Malfeasance in the CoB, 2003-09

The turmoil caused by the D. Harold Doty administration (2003-07) of USM's College of Business has been the subject of numerous studies, reports and editorials here at USMNEWS.net and elsewhere. One of the symptoms, if not also one of the causes, of such turmoil is the degree of turnover among the divisions of Doty's administrative structure. That turmoil crept into the interim administration of Alvin Williams (2007-08), and plagued much of the first year of the Lance Nail administration (2008-09). To see what the turnover looked like, Table 1 lists the names of the individuals who held chairs, in sequence, from the first year under Doty (2003) through Nail's first year (2009) at the helm of USM's b-school.

Table 1
Administrative Turnover in the CoB, 2003-04 through 2008-09

EFIB	MGT&MKT	SAIS	TM
1. Klinedinst, Mark	1. Williams, Alvin	1. Posey, Roderick	1. Williams, Alvin
2. Carter, George	2. Babin, Barry	2. Lewis, Stanley	2. Becker, Cherylynn
	3. Henthorne, Tony	3. Jackson, Steven	3. Henthorne, Tony
	4. Duhon, David		4. Duhon, David

No fewer than two individuals occupied each of the four chairmanships in the CoB under Doty, Williams and Nail from 2003-09. Across the four departments, the average number of chairs from 2003-09 was 3.25, with a standard deviation of 0.96. The 13 placeholders above were represented by 10 individuals, as Alvin Williams, David Duhon *and* Tony Henthorne chaired two separate departments – MGT/MKT and TM – at one time or another.

Interestingly, 4 of the 11 individuals (36.4%) in Table 1 became defendants in a federal court lawsuit during the 2003-09 period. These are Alvin Williams (MGT/MKT and TM), Roderick Posey (SAIS), Stanley Lewis (SAIS) and Steven Jackson (SAIS). Another, Tony Henthorne, was involved in a “sticky personnel issue” just before departing the CoB during the summer of 2008. Cherylynn Becker, the former chair of TM, had a personnel complaint (for verbal abuse, including profanity) filed against her (while chair) by a CoB staffer during the 2003-09 period, marking the 6th individual of the 10 listed in Table 1 above to have a troubling past. Finally, former EFIB chairman George Carter's use of USM property for private gain has been reported extensively by USMNEWS.net, as was Barry Babin's participation in the now *infamous* “letter of agreement” episode involving David Duhon and others. These stories mark 9 of the 10 individuals included in Table 1 above.