

The LaFleurian Candidate?

As “The 6 Degrees of Danny Arnold? Try 2!” illustrates, CoB dean candidate Danny Arnold is far from an independent candidate; Arnold sports at least 70 ties to current or former CoB faculty members. What is amazing – and, to some, the most troublesome aspect of this incredible statistic – is that Elizabeth LaFleur’s name appears in that document 11 times, indicating that LaFleur has more than just a passing relationship with Arnold.

LaFleur pursued her DBA from Mississippi State University during the 1985-1989 period, which coincides directly with the middle of Danny Arnold’s tenure as a marketing faculty member at Mississippi State.

One of LaFleur’s first articles (1991) was a joint publication with Arnold.

Throughout her career, LaFleur has frequented the regional and specialty conferences – sometimes several each year – alongside Arnold.

LaFleur ate a private/personal lunch with Arnold when Arnold was a member of USM’s 2007 AACSB Peer Review Team.

What we can comment on, though, is the idea that LaFleur could be supporting Arnold’s candidacy as a means to gain maximum power within the CoB. USMNEWS.net readers will recall that LaFleur was “brought home” by Alvin Williams and at a highly inflated salary given her meager career accomplishments. Immediately upon arriving at USM, LaFleur aligned herself with Harold Doty in an effort to replicate her political “pull” from Nicholls State, where she reportedly “got whatever she wanted.” Of course, LaFleur has shut down the trickle of publications that was her publishing career in favor of the “collegial” lifestyle provided by the USMGC campus and has become the (overly) vocal advocate for Coast equality, even if it pales in comparison by number of majors. Readers may also recall that LaFleur opposed EFIB’s hiring of Farooq Malik because his personality did not suit her tastes as well as another candidate’s did.

What has Beth LaFleur done for the CoB? Other than supporting a corrupt administration, supporting mobbing, fighting meritocracy, and behaving in a self-serving manner, not much to speak of, although every recent decision to tear down the old CoB in favor of the “Doty CoB” may be traced through her as a “team player” on the Coast.

LaFleur came to USM to get more money and to position herself to gain power at her alma mater, and a Danny Arnold deanship would grease the skids immensely, possibly enabling LaFleur to act as Stephen Bushardt’s kingmaker-replacement in the CoB and work closely with Arnold to achieve her own agenda.

If Beth LaFleur hands Danny Arnold a deck of cards, we’ll really start to worry.