

Two Months On

Two months ago, Dean Nail named Gwen Pate and Ken Zantow to be new Assistant Deans in the CoB. From reports set to and gathered by usmnews.net, here is a status report:

Ken Zantow has been busy irritating fellow administrators and as many faculty as he can contact. He is clearly out of the Harold Doty (toxic) mold of no inter-personal skills. He wants his way because it is his way. Zantow's idea about when to teach MBA courses has wreaked havoc on the CoB chairs. It seems he thinks it would be innovative to offer all the classes all the time. [Memo: Dear Ken – budget cuts, fewer faculty, less money – ever hear of it?] The chairs and Gwen Pate have spent many hours doing and re-doing schedules trying to accommodate Ken. Reports indicate the chairs have had enough of placating Zantow. To no one's surprise, faculty members are not excited about teaching even more students in more and new preps just so one person (and it is not Dean Nail) can get his way. If this reminds you of idiotic Harold Doty moves, it should. It is time for Lance Nail to step up and step in to settle this: either reel in Zantow and make him play nicely with others, or tell all the others they have to do it Zantow's way and watch them resign or do less, and watch the faculty revolt. If Zantow was really the anti-Beth LeFleur pick, it may be time to re-evaluate the selection, Dean Nail.

Gwen Pate is constantly busy, frequently from scheduling problems caused by Zantow, but also by an out-going absent chair, such as Steve Jackson, or an out-going worthless chair, such as old George Carter, or a neophyte chair, such as Dave Duhon. Reports indicate that since Gwen actually gets a few things done – setting herself apart from other CoB administrators – she gets many additional tasks dumped her that should not be dumped on her. While understandable to a certain point, her main tasks, such as AACSB accreditation, are left under-tended. Maybe Dean Nail has changed her duties since January.

Grading: Zantow is clearly and easily an “F”. Like a student with a 48 average thinking s/he can make an “A”, Zantow continues on in vain.

Pate is a bit more difficult. Scores will be given like this: for doing some positive things when few others are doing anything – “B”; for getting scheduling accomplished late, and little else in the “big picture” game – “C-”; or for not taking charge of accreditation and other macro-matters – “D”. Zantow saved you from a failing grade, Dr. Pate; that may be his best use.

Where is Joe Peyrefitte in all this? A good question for another time.