

UT-Tyler Student Newspaper Tells Familiar Tale

A GUEST EDITORIAL

The 22-Feb-2011 [editorial](#) at **PATRIOTTALON.com**, the online version of the University of Texas – Tyler student newspaper, entitled “Secrets, Secrets” is an interesting read for followers of USMNEWS.net who are now intrigued by the UT-Tyler saga involving a handful of former USM administrators. Its author, “leachristine,” tells the story about the newspaper’s forced evacuation of its physical space (during the summer of 2010) in order to make room for a multimedia lab. The *Patriot Talon*’s editors and faculty advisor were informed that a portable building would be put to use for the newspaper, however the meeting to finalize the details left those concerned “. . . with more questions than answers.” UT-Tyler administrators told *Patriot Talon* staffers that a new university *space allocation committee* was being set up so that they could appeal the decision (that they did not even understand).

Unbeknownst to the aforementioned administrators, such a committee already existed on the UT-Tyler campus. The officials got back in touch with the *PT* staffers to inform them that they had discovered the committee’s existence, and that the committee’s chair was none other than Peter Fos, the UT-Tyler [provost](#) who formerly served as USM’s College of Health dean. The problem then was, as USMNEWS.net followers are aware, that the **PATRIOTTALON.com** staffers were [forced to deal](#) with a “lame duck” UT-Tyler administrator. Ultimately, and not unexpectedly, pushed into a physical relocation, *Patriot Talon* editors next became concerned that they would not be able to afford the move and renovation required to have the newspaper up-and-running, and able to serve the students at UT-Tyler. They were told by UT-Tyler administrators that the paper “. . . would probably not be responsible for the costs” of the move. Being veteran observers of higher education administrators, the staff of the **PATRIOTTALON.com** wanted formal assurance from an official on the finance end of things. The person in that position was none other than Gregg Lassen, UT-Tyler’s vice president of [business affairs](#). Unfortunately for the *PT*, Lassen, the former vice president for finance at USM, absconded on 15-Feb-2011 for an equal position at Lamar University in Beaumont, TX. Now, UT-Tyler president Rodney Mabry is supposedly [responsible](#) for Lassen’s tasks, given that UT-Tyler is not able to replace Lassen due to a forthcoming, and potentially massive, budget cut.

The **PATRIOTTALON.com** editorial concludes: “And the bureaucratic cycle continue[s].” What “leachristine” might not know is that Mabry’s time is being [wasted in dealing with](#) an off-the-rails [business school](#) dean – former USM b-school dean Harold Doty – who sources say [continues to scoff](#) at university policies and state legal requirements. Current and former USM business faculty, and followers of USMNEWS.net, know all too well [how much time](#) that can [consume](#). At least the UT-Tyler’s constituencies will know they’re close to [rock bottom](#) when Doty begins sending out [random e-mail messages](#) whose subject lines read “Mental health concerns” and “Potential bias and racism in college.”