

When a Rose is a Weed

For the last several months Donna Davis had been telling any and every person she encountered that she was working on stuff but she was retiring June 30th. Most people nodded and went on their way knowing the lack of truth in her statement. She has been saying this for at least 5 years. The problem is not that what she says and what she does are not the same – that is common in the JAG; the problem is she has been collecting perks and other goodies for years based on that. A small group did not fight her application for full professor because she was going to retire in another year, so, what the heck; let her retire with a bump in pay for retirement and a higher title. She has gotten other raises that same way. Last year, as Interim Dean Alvin Williams was departing, one of his many “gifts” to the College he allegedly loved was naming Donna Interim Graduate Director “because she is retiring” in a year, she can use the bump, and she will be out of the way for the real new Graduate Director. Sorry, but thanks for playing. How many times do we have to see the pull my finger game before someone in authority catches on to it? She does – and always has – promised the moon and produced air. This has nothing to do with age; it has everything to do with production. If talk alone was meritorious, Davis would be in the top 1% in everything. If all Davis has left is hot air, it is time to go. Perhaps Dean Nail will take this opportunity to remove her when he names the new Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs. Her current position then being redundant, she can publish, teach, and work on committees. Or retire. Really. Do something, just be quiet about it.