

A comment on Did Byxbe Smell the Tabletgate Smoke?

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Information, observations and opinions are valued even if there is more than a four years delay in making them. Yesterday, the editor received an email from John J. Byxbe, associate director of contract services at USM from September 2009 through October 2011. The email commented on a report published February 14, 2011, entitled [Did Byxbe Smell the Tabletgate Smoke? Left Contracts Office Just weeks before Scandal Broke](#).

The text of the report is printed below:

Did Byxbe Smell the Tabletgate Smoke? Left Contracts Office Just Weeks before Scandal Broke

Based on [information](#) recently provided to USMNEWS.net, it appears that John J. Byxbe left the USM contracts office just weeks before details of the [Tabletgate scandal](#) at USM became public. Byxbe was the associate director of contract services at USM from Sept-2009 – Oct-2011, after which he joined the College of William and Mary (CWM) as the associate director of auxiliary services.

[picture in original]

As regular readers of USMNEWS.net are aware, involvement in Tabletgate resulted in Mike Herndon, the director of contract services at USM, being [placed on administrative leave](#) by the Mississippi IHL Board. Herndon [later surrendered his post](#) at USM. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that Byxbe's 3-Oct-2011 appointment with CWM means that he left USM about six weeks before former USM provost Robert [Lyman resigned his](#)

[administration position](#) at USM. It seems possible that Byxbe knew at the time he left that Tabletgate fallout was just over the horizon. Sources also point out, however, that Byxbe would have been in line to replace Herndon as director of contract services at USM. As such, they question whether or not Byxbe was “caught up” in the scandal as well, though there is *no evidence* at present to support the notion of Byxbe’s involvement in that situation. Still, revelation of the departure of Byxbe just weeks before Tabletgate *became public* provides yet another example as to why members of the USM community are left wondering about the extent of this scandal, as well as to how the USM faculty senate is doing very little to uncover many of the details of this fiasco. [Italics in original.]

Mr. Byxbe sent the following email to the editor on January 6, 2016:

Marc,

Happy New Year! I hope you and Kate are doing well. My wife, Amy Byxbe, and mother Laurie J. Hutchings, esquire worked for Kate for many years and thoroughly enjoyed their time. I came across an article "Did Byxbe Smell the Tablegate Smoke?" on USM News website. I can assure you that my departure was purely coincidental and a move to further my career. With this being mentioned, I was hopeful that you could remove this article or at minimum redact my likeness (i.e., name) from it.

Kindly,

John J. Byxbe

usmnews.net appreciates the opportunity to present Mr. Byxbe’s comments about the report. usmnews.net has chosen to publish Mr. Byxbe’s comment rather than deleting or altering the report. Even when deleted or altered such documents remain cached and available.