

EDITORIAL

Today The University of Southern Mississippi announced that Dean D. Harold Doty and Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand had resigned from their administrative positions, effective immediately. During a meeting with Provost Jay Grimes, the College of Business faculty was advised that Dean Doty would not be returning to campus until the fall semester. Given the destruction wreaked on CoB by Dr. Doty and his administrative cohorts, this editor, the reporters and contributors to usmnews.net consider this to be – at least in the short term – positive news. It will truly be positive news if Interim Dean Alvin Williams works to eliminate the divisiveness and atmosphere of favoritism created by Dr. Doty and his subordinates.

However, I have to say that Dean Williams did not do well on his first test question – “Do you consider faculty vita to be confidential?” Dean Williams allowed that he thought individual faculty should be allowed to decide whether their vita should be public. While his position may seem reasonable at first blush, think about what he is really saying. People who do well in teaching, research and service have no objection to their vita being made public. People who do not perform well, and who must rely on private deals for rewards, need to keep their (lack of) performance out of the public domain. Permitting vita to remain confidential only enhances an atmosphere of division and perception that evaluations are not based on merit. In any event, vita are public records, so why try to hide them?

To give Dean Williams his due, he did agree to consider his position. I am sending him an email that lays out the reasons that vita should be readily available. I will let you know what he says because that answer will go a long way toward telling us what the future of the CoB holds.

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