

Dear Dr. _____,

We are planning to request publication information (vitae) from the faculty via usmnews.net to follow up on your suggestion. We were in the process of updating your information and realized that to do so would not only identify, but highlight you. The question our colleagues at USM's CoB would likely ask is why did Dr. _____ provide information to usmnews.net? I do not believe my concerns are unfounded. Not long ago, another untenured assistant professor who communicated with usmnews.net providing thoughtful input and advice was handed a terminal contract, only six months before he went up for tenure. To be clear, the young faculty member had an almost certainly tenurable record.

What reason was he given for being terminated? He was told by former Dean Doty that he (Doty) had "lost confidence in [the assistant professor's] ability to contribute" to CoB. No action was ever taken on his grievance at any level of the CoB or University. A tenured full professor left CoB and moved to a better B'school after he was repeatedly punished with punitive teaching schedules and bad evaluations. With respect to this professor, former-Dean Doty dredged out what appears to be one of his favorite attacks on any potential voice of dissent—the now departed faculty was, according to Doty, dangerous and unstable. What evidence did Doty have to support the claim? Absolutely none because it was absolutely false. But it didn't stop Doty from making this claim to the President who supported his intolerance without question. And, for the past three semesters President Saunders, with the apparent agreement of Dean Naill, still ban me from Joe Green Hall in retaliation for my speech.

Let me say it a little differently, former and current administrators have proved to be intolerant and to aggressively punish those who are not viewed as part of their "team." Some faculty have fallen into this category for no obvious reason. In any event, my view is that an untenured faculty should not be involved with politics but USM administrators absolutely refused to listen. If you nevertheless prefer that we do a story on your publication record based on the vita you provided, we'll do it. It might be more politically astute for us to ask that CoB faculty provide information on publications, i.e., current vitae, so that usmnews.net can update the public research records of many faculty.

Marc DePree