

And then who?

Once Chairman Carter is no longer an administrator, who will replace him? It surely must be someone from within since, given the stockpile of economists, there cannot be an available line to hire a new chairman. Here are the EFIB faculty members available from which to select (after the new guys, in alphabetical order [excluding Farhang Niroomand, Associate Dean]):

The new guys: Dakhila, Haggard, Hood, Lambert, Marvasti, and Monchuk. Surely none of these gentlemen would be considered due to their lack of experience and newness to USM.

John Clark – soon-to-be tenured, already an Associate Professor, and at least a pledge on team Doty. He has been a good publisher lately, and the CoB does not need to lose his publication stream (note: this no longer seems to be an issue in the CoB). Further, despite his salary, he believes he is grossly underpaid now; additional responsibilities without a Babin-esque raise would be out of the question. Even with such a raise, he is unlikely to be caged in the 8:00 to 5:00 world; assuming that is no longer an issue for administrators, Clark might be interested if he also receives the Babin and Niroomand liberal time off policy.

Trellis Green – tenured Associate Professor, and an interesting choice. Please see the multi-part series on Dr. Green's previous lawsuit. Would they ever risk even minimal control to show him how hard the job is and how wrong he has always been? Not very likely. He also probably would not be interested in an 8:00 to 5:00 job over 12 months. If you think about it, this might be pure poetry in action.

Bill Gunther, former dean, helping to interview to be former Bureau Director, and extremely unlikely to commute from Alabama every day: no way he steps down and deals with day-to-day hassles. He is a "big picture guy", not a grinder.

Ernie King, tenured Associate Professor, former Graduate Director, and major CoB tuition "cash cow": also an interesting choice. Many thought he should be considered when Hamwi and then Carter received the job; when there is no faculty consultation, this is what happens. He clearly can do the job, but would he want to be chairman now? Ponder no further because Doty would never allow a non-"yes man" on the team.

Mark Klinedinst, tenured Professor and former Chairman of EFIB; he could be asked to return on an interim basis, but that would mean Farhang would be running the department for the most part, so Dr. Klinedinst is out. As the originator of the staying behind one or more locked doors policy, you would think he would be a natural for the Doty team. He cannot seriously be considered because he took more time off than Babin and Niroomand.

Tom Lindley, tenured Professor: out on medical leave for the spring semester, so that would potentially cramp any need for transition. Dr. Lindley tells the truth, is fair, and does not suffer fools lightly. Three strikes and you are out as a candidate. Lindley has always been feared as a potential chairman because he would be fair: no favorites or undeserved rewards. Dr. Lindley never stood a chance for the chairmanship.

Frank Mixon, tenured Professor and prolific scholar: here too an interesting choice. While Chairman Carter is trying to restrict the flow of his publications with punitive schedules, it will not work. While he has no previous administrative experience, Dr. Mixon could perform the duties of chairman, but has never desired to do so. As this year continues, he may change his mind. Wouldn't that be interesting?

Ed Nissan, long-time tenured Professor, regular publisher, and Anglophile: no chance. He has always been in the pocket of whoever the departmental chairman is. He is comfortable there, and surely wants to stay. If he ever became chairman, he would eclipse Dr. Klinedinst's record for time away from the job. He would also set a new record for lack of knowledge for the job, passing his friend and former chairman, Dr. Hamwi.

Sean Salter, untenured Assistant Professor and departmental target for Chairman Carter: no chance, but for the target reasons, not being an untenured Assistant. Perhaps one day. Dr. Salter has shown a flair for administrative work with his uber-service of hiring finance colleagues and scheduling classes (back when logic was used) as an Assistant. Competency is so very passé in the CoB.

Charles Sawyer, tenured professor, textbook author, and departmental kitchen cabinet member with gold clusters: he must be the odds on favorite. A few years ago Dr. Sawyer said he might consider being chairman in his last few years at USM; here we are. He wants the pay bump for retirement (assuming he is actually going anywhere), the power and influence over some people, to be sucked-up too, and a reduced teaching load. He is not administratively oriented, and does not like confrontation or accountability. It is unlikely, given the current climate and probable future environment, that Sawyer really wants the chairmanship. He may be able to be convinced with dollars and other promises. If he takes the job, he will earn all those extra dollars through the day-to-day stresses of the job.

As Emerson, Lake & Palmer once said: "Welcome Back My Friends to the Show That Never Ends."