

What Will Doty “SAIS” Now?

The CoB was told that Dr. Stan Lewis was hired for one year as Interim Director of SAIS (School of Accountancy and Information Systems). During that year, despite it being the same year as final preparation for and visitation by an AACSB re-accreditation team, Doty would initialize and Barry Babin, Chairman of Marketing and Management, would lead a nationwide search for the new SAIS Director. Does Dr. Babin have a vast knowledge of accounting? No. Information Systems? No. Great experience as a chairman? No. A lot of experience running searches? Not exactly. The reason for Babin’s positioning here is obvious: he and Doty are one, so control is maintained.

No one contacted could confirm that this search has begun. Why not? There was less clarity here. Money is always a good guess. Without resignations or retirements by any of Doty’s “deadwood” druthers, it is unlikely there could be enough money available to hire the hand-picked successor. A prize catch from accounting would be expensive; probably too expensive for USM, or for USM’s current salary and ego structure. A qualified person from the information systems area would be expensive as well, but, never fear, with things the way they are, there is about as much chance of an information systems person being allowed to be director as there is of Doty becoming dean of the University of South Florida’s College of Business. Another possibility is there may not be approval to hire – there is a glut of accounting faculty now, how could the hiring of another accounting person – even as director – be justified? Given Doty’s lack of amicableness with Dr. Thames and his staff, it is unlikely they would go out of their way to help Doty achieve another personal goal.

What’s a poor Doty to do? He could ask Dr. Lewis to retain his Interim position for another year or two. That would provide some continuity and, if the AACSB visit results in less than full re-accreditation, Lewis is there to continue his work toward that goal. No one really believes Dr. Crockett actually did much on the report, right? It was just another deal in the CoB.

Doty could ask Dr. Lewis to become Director until the search is completed. That would imply that Dr. Lewis did a positive job and should be rewarded for it. Maybe he should be a candidate for the nationwide search. This option is impossible because Doty cannot elevate Lewis to anything near Babin status. Doty’s myopia is boundless.

How about allowing Dr. Donna Davis to become director as a reward for being the Sedona princess for the AACSB internal process? The list of reasons for disallowing this is long, but here is a highlight package: She is an informational systems person (see above); she over-promises and under-delivers; assuming he still matters, Dr. Niroomand intensely dislikes her and could not work with her as an administrator; old or new paradigm, hers is always unintelligible; and, she is not a trusted insider.

Move Dr. Gwen Pate up from Undergraduate Academic Services to director – after all, she has done a far better job down in JGH 110 than anyone thought she would do. That is viewed as a lesser administrative position, and if promoted, Doty would have to back-fill that job. Who would take it? Who would do all Dr. Pate does – including things seemingly unrelated to the job

– because she is asked to do so? While nearly everyone likes Gwen, it is another matter for her to be director. She would probably take the job if she would become a Full Professor (didn't they promise that with this job?), but she will not get it because she is not, and probably will not be, a Full Professor. You did enough work during the HVAC debacle, Dr. Pate; time to more closely resemble many of the other CoB administrators.

It has been unsuccessfully tried many times, but what about a current accounting faculty member? The simple answer is no one wants to do it, or is even willing to do it for a short period of time; apathy is at an all-time high. Several are tantalizingly near retirement, several have health issues, some have long commute issues (while trendy in the CoB, it should be a requirement that an administrator live in Mississippi), and all are highly paid and are not in search of more pay for much more work. Can you blame any one of them for not wanting to be around Doty all the time? If in doubt, please re-visit George Carter's comments on the subject.

What will Doty "SAIS" about this? With all the spring semester holds, it will seem like a short time between now and June 30th. One thing is probable: whatever Doty does, nearly everyone will think "Again?" "Can he do anything that makes sense?"