Psycho? Logical? Bulletin
Special Edition

A SECOND TERM: LET IT BE

In This Issue:
Mike Scheier: Great Department Head, or Greatest Head?
Highlights of the Scheier Years
Goals for the next five years
Perks of ruling with an iron fist
A song by David K., David R.
(with a little help from John, Paul, George, and Ringo)

I get by with a little help from Mike Scheier
What would you think if my grant was turned down,
Would you stand up and walk out on me?
Lend me some funds: I'll revise it again
And submit to a new agency,

Oh, I get by with a little help from Mike Scheier,
Mm, I get staff with a little help from Mike Scheier,
Mm, hope he doesn't retire.

What do I do when our Head is away?
Do I wish he'd let me have my own phone?
How do I feel by the end of the day?
Am I sad because my work is unknown?

Oh, I get by with a little help from Mike Scheier,
Mm, I get perks with a little help from Mike Scheier,
Mm, we're glad he didn't retire.

Do we need the same Head here?
He's someone whom everyone loves.
Could it be anybody?
"No!" for all of the reasons above

Would you believe that our budget is tight?
Yes, I'm certain that it happens all the time.
What does he do when the faculty fight?
I can't tell you but it turns out fine.

Oh, we get by with a little help from Mike Scheier,
Mm, new hires with a little help from Mike Scheier,
Mm, we're glad he didn't retire.

Do we need the same Head here?
He's someone whom everyone loves.
Could it be anybody?
"No!" for all of the reasons above

Oh, we get by with a lot of help from Mike Scheier,
With a lot of help from Mike Scheier

David K. and David R. sing all - chorus (the rest of us) join in on italicized lines
Mike’s Job Approval Rating:

At the beginning of his second term of office, what is your opinion of Mike’s performance as department head? Please check one of the following options.

- Mike is a great department head
- Mike is the greatest department head.
- Do you mean Michael Jordan?

All poll options approved by Mike Scheier

6 highlights of Mike’s 5 years as department head

1. Between October 24 and October 25, 2007, survived 26.2 straight hours of meetings, emerging from what is known as the “Administrator’s Marathon” dehydrated and dazed. Miraculously, the university mission statement was moderately coherent despite this.

2. Oversaw hiring of 6 junior faculty between 2004 and 2008 (Nick Yeung, Erik Thiessen, Anna Fisher, Kevin Pelphrey, Charles Kemp, J. David Creswell). Oversaw departure of less than half of them!

3. If not for the infamous ‘kickball incident’ of 2008, sign in his office would read “Have now gone 1034 days without tempers in department flaring into violent physical conflict.”

4. Through guile, sheer force of will, and sometimes via insertion of previously undiscovered zeros, has balanced the department budget on a fairly regular basis.

5. Between February and May 2006, managed to have the same item (‘Resources for academic integrity issues, discussion of’) on the faculty meeting agenda for 5 straight meetings, setting a modern-era record.

6. The department has performed consistently well in grad school and impact rankings during Mike’s time as head. Now, while we could say something about correlation and causality at this juncture, the department wouldn’t be doing so well if it weren’t such a great place to work, and there’s no doubt that a good department head plays a role in that. So thanks, Mike!
In Mike’s recent research, he’s found that disengaging from unrealistic goals in favor of more attainable ones has a positive impact on health and well-being. With that in mind, the PLB has some suggestions about goals for his second term as department head.

1. Come up with more excuses to say fungible. The word works on every level - items in the department budget that are fungible are usually good things, plus, it’s just fun(gible) to say.

2. Have a more successful second term than George W. Bush or Richard Nixon. No impeachments, and no invading of West Virginia.

3. Convince Brooke Feeney not to play fantasy football, and then win league himself.

4. Get through an entire faculty meeting agenda in one hour. (Wait. Maybe this isn’t such a good goal to set. What’s the word that means ‘opposite of attainable?’).

5. Buy a camera for the PLB. You know... just throwing it out there. Very easily attainable goal! Probably lower his blood pressure immediately. Followed by raising it once he sees some of the high resolution photos published in the PLB. Hmmm.

Being department head is obviously a lot of work. So why did Mike decide to take on a second term? The PLB has the scoop: this photo illustrates a critical part of the decision-making process.
What is it about Mike’s background that led him on the path to becoming such a good Head? As a developmentalist, I believe that early experiences have a profound influence on how people turn out in the long run. A glance at Mike’s publication record reveals that he had the perfect initial experiences. His first publication studied the way that an organism--about as complex as a typical Psych faculty member--responds to perceived danger (Warren, Scheier, & Riley, 1974). Although the animal model was an Octopus, as you can see here, the difference is not so great as to invalidate his frequent extrapolations from his Octopus work to faculty promotion and tenure deliberations. Mike’s early investigations continued to shape his development into the perfect Department Head, as his next publication (Scheier, Fenigstein, & Buss, 1974) focused on self-awareness and physical aggression. Because faculty are well known to have little of the former and a lot of the latter, this experience also gave Mike the kind of deep understanding necessary to do his job. We are lucky to have him for 5 more years.


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1. [http://www.psy.cmu.edu/faculty/scheier/vita.pdf](http://www.psy.cmu.edu/faculty/scheier/vita.pdf)
Another reason to be excited by Mike’s second term as department head

The PLB has heard a rumor that Mike used his first closet full of Hawaiian shirts for his first term. Now that he’s agreed on a second term... he’ll break into his second closet of Hawaiian shirts!

The old saying is that absolute power corrupts absolutely, but so far, Mike has resisted the temptation to let the power of the head go to his, er, head.

The PLB’s research staff recently looked at the CMU charter and found this list of head-powers that Mike has refrained from using. We should all be thankful that he’s been such a nice guy!

1. Department heads are allowed to bring junior faculty into their office and tell them to “dance for their annual raise.”

2. Department heads are empowered to grant themselves 10 points in racquetball whenever they deem it necessary for the good of the department.

3. During floods and other natural disasters, CMU charter states that order of evacuation is “women, children, and department heads first.” But Mike stayed in his office and nearly went down with the building during the Great Giant Eagle Flood of ‘04.

4. Instead of walking across campus, the CMU charter declares that department heads should be “borne aloft on the shoulders of graduate students.”

5. CMU charter grants department heads the right to settle all disputes via game of Rock-Paper-Scissors. And also to declare that whichever item they selected automatically beats all other items.
Leaks from the CMU administration indicate that Dr. Michael Scheier had great success in his negotiations with the Dean and Provost. Primary on his list was free candy for the faculty (with the addition of several choices beyond the 2 current selections) + a special dental supplement to replace their teeth. Even more impressive was an agreement to pay for removal of squirrels and graduate students from faculty offices. The university signed a contract with Dr. Kenneth Kotovsky to capture up to 10 squirrels or graduate students a year and fly them to Afghanistan.

Scheier has also finalized a trade with the Yale University Psychology Department. In a 3 year deal, CMU sent a social psychologist, development neuroscientist, and 2 graduate students to Yale, and received in return a Macintosh Computer and DEC 10 Workstation (with paper tape). The Pittsburgh Pirates were the third organization involved in the trade offering the 2 best players on the team to anyone who will take them. In return, they will receive free tickets to CMU women’s volleyball games. And he wants to do this for another 5 years? Congratulations MIKE!

The department is as excited as kids at Christmas that Mike will be staying on for a second term as head. But don’t just take the PLB’s word for it. Here’s what some of his colleagues (including anonymous colleagues) are saying.

(photocredit: Marcel Just)

Thanks for being Head for another 5 years, Mike! You’re a great colleague and a wonderful Head! We’re very fortunate to have you. Best wishes always, Brooke.

(photocredit: Marcel Just)

Only former heads can understand your heroism and self-sacrifice! Heartfelt thanks for continuing at the helm.
Thank you Mike for agreeing to put up with all of us and this job for another 5 years. I doubt that material rewards could compensate for the pain and suffering that comes with dealing with some of us (who, me?), but now that you have received a special Mike-centric issue of the PLB, I’m confident that all your efforts in the past and future are amply rewarded with this recognition.

I’m happy Mike is going to continue as Head. It would be very scary if he weren’t.... because this way we know where he is at all times.

As Robert Frost once said...A headless department is like a sandwich without the mayonnaise....or is it the lettuce... well... something like that!

And finally, Great job Mike, we’re both lucky and happy that it’s going to continue!

Mike is a swell Head, because he doesn’t have a swelled head

Thank God it’s you and not ________, or ________, or definitely not ________!

Mike - great news that you’re continuing as head! What would we do without our fearless leader? But do try to spice up the wardrobe a bit, particularly those drab shirts.....:-)

Been working for Mike since 1996. It was a challenge in the beginning (he was tough to “break in”), but it was worth the effort. Seriously, though, its been a pleasure working with him, and I truly look forward to another five years with Mike at the helm.

We’re all just happy that we don’t have to go fishing for a new head