

# Too Big to Fire?

## *Examining the USM Departure of Mark Klinedinst*

As the CoB's economists depart the Joseph Greene Hall stage at the end of the 2009-10 academic year, USMNEWS.net will be examining the research credentials that will be leaving the CoB, if not the institution as a whole. This installment focuses on professor Mark Klinedinst, who is two of the five mostly senior CoB economists who were forced into retirement by USM during budget-cutting exercises that took place back in the fall of 2009. What will the CoB (USM) lose with this departure? On the research front, Table 1 below provides an answer.

Table 1 – Klinedinst's Journal Publications Trail

Year	Journal Publications
2010	
2009	
2008	
2007	
2006	
2005	
2004	
2003	
2002	
2001	
2000	
1999	
1998	<i>Journal of Comparative Economics</i>
	<i>Journal of Comparative Economics</i>
1997	
1996	<i>Journal of Economic Issues</i>
1995	
1994	<i>Journal of Economic Issues</i>
1993	
1992	<i>European Economic Review</i>
	<i>Journal of Economic Issues</i>
1991	<i>Australian Bulletin of Labor</i>
	<i>Economic Analysis &amp; Workers' Management</i>
1990	
1989	
1988	
1987	
1986	
1985	

From what USMNEWS.net reporters have been able to piece together for Klinedinst, again we see academic cotton candy. Somehow Klinedinst managed to squeeze (1) tenure, (2) promotion to associate, and (3) promotion to professor out of the turnip represented by the eight journal publications listed above for the 1991-98 period. These decisions (by CoB faculty/administration and USM faculty/administration) are truly without justification.

Long-time readers of USMNEWS.net are aware of the many CoB scandals/issues involving Klinedinst. They are many. This report focuses, however, on Klinedinst's role in the fall 2009 budget-cutting process, wherein he joined former EFIB chairman George Carter in castigating the USM central administration through national media outlet *Inside Higher Ed*. More on this

episode can be found in the "ECO Terminal" at USMNEWS.net. Klinedinst appears to following these efforts up by blaming all of USM's dire fiscal situation on the nation's big banks, as he explains in this 15-Apr-2010 letter to USM's *The Student Printz*:

## Students, faculty should get involved

By Letter to the Editor

As USM celebrates its Centennial we have many things to be proud of, as a quick look at some of the many achievements of our graduates shows. We need to make sure that this success continues in the future and is not hurt by the potentially "draconian" cuts that are being proposed in the coming years. These are tough times with many a family facing losses from income, jobs and even their homes. Laying off staff who have been so loyal to USM for many years will only make matters worse for a number of individuals, student services and local businesses. The cut to education in the Hattiesburg area alone may come to over \$50 million a year, a loss many local businesses will feel sharply. A number of faculty, staff and students have voiced their concern to their elected representatives and I would encourage everyone to do so. A strong democracy depends on active citizens.

The Student Printz should be commended for having on their home page a link to contact the administration at USM and elected representatives. There is also a "petition to properly fund education in Mississippi" that you can sign online (<http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/property-fund-education-in-mississippi.html>) or there are some paper petitions you can sign. This effort to get better funding is supported statewide by students, faculty, staff and concerned citizens. You can find this as well by searching in Google for "Petition to Properly Fund Education in Mississippi" and also you can join the group with the same name in Facebook to help spread the word. The group that started this petition, Mississippi Statewide Consortium for the Improvement of Education, represents members from K-12, university faculty senates and students from across the state.

The more people sign, the stronger will be the case made to our representatives. The misdeeds of the finance sector of the economy, and outright stealing by some, should not become the burden of children and young people. Economists from across the political spectrum are worried that the economy may now face a "double-dip" recession or that the economy may limp along rather than being at full employment. One of the best investments that can be made for the economy and to make the future brighter is in education. Not only do educated citizens earn much more over their lifetime, they spend more at local businesses, pay more taxes, are less likely to be unemployed, make better health choices, etc.

These are some of the toughest economic times we have faced since the Great Depression as Americans, so we all need to be compassionate to those you may meet in class and in the workplace who are feeling the brunt of this recession. Please make the choice to be an informed and active citizen which will also help make USM's next one hundred years even better.

"If the children . . . are untaught, their ignorance and vices will in future life cost us much dearer in their consequences, than it would have done, in their correction, by a good education." Thomas Jefferson, 1818

Mark Klinedinst,  
Professor of Economics  
President of the USM American Association of University Professors  
Member of Faculty Senate  
Member of Mississippi Statewide Consortium for the Improvement of Education

Is Klinedinst flailing about, trying to retain his post at USM?