

31st & Pearl

Can Pascalau be Indoctrinated, then Hired?

The recent revelation about new EFIB economics instructor Razvan Pascalau's loose grading scale reminds one of the many reports here at usmnews.net about grade inflation in the CoB. Pascalau's guarantee of a passing grade for students who score 50 or above will only accelerate that situation. The other break points indicated on his BA 301 syllabus will as well. Seeing the scale reminds us that, while it can be difficult for some new faculty to fit into the CoB's old guard culture, others go easily and willingly.

It's not a stretch to imagine Pascalau being hired on a permanent basis, perhaps even this academic year. The CoB's hiring difficulties are have been increasing since 2003, when former CoB Dean Harold Doty assumed leadership of the CoB, and now those difficulties have reached a level many long-time CoBers have not heretofore encountered. Pascalau, currently a PhD student at the University of Alabama, might make for an easier-than-usual hire. EFIB economist, Sami Dakhliya, worked at Alabama for several years before being issued a terminal contract, so he at least knows Pascalau. However, their relationship may extend even further if Pascalau's recent participation in Dakhliya's weekly seminar series is any indication. If Dakhliya's hooks are already in, it'll be an easy victory for those looking to take the EFIB back to the future.

The exodus of CoB faculty has hardly slowed since Doty arrived in Hattiesburg back in the summer of 2003. Not only has this year's list of announced departures been long, it may have begun earlier in the year than any time in history. Note too that this year's outflow was initiated by an announcement from Alvin Williams, the current Interim Dean of the CoB, who informed faculty way back in the fall of 2007 that he was leaving the CoB on 30-June-08. Some have said that the George Carters and Mary Andersons are creating "the college they want." Only time will tell if a compliant Pascalau is an ingredient in that recipe.