

# 31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl

## Why Such a Difficult Time?

We've all heard it, over and over again. Harold Doty telling those assembled at USF in September of 2005: "I have a difficult time using State E&G dollars to supplement faculty salaries." We've heard it so many times that you might even believe it. Well, don't. The record shows there's nothing "difficult" about it -- using State E&G dollars to boost faculty salaries, that is.

One only has to go as far back as the 2007 merit raise process to see how easy it is. For example, the combined \$17,500 (approx) raise reserved for econ-newbies Sami Dakhliya and Akbar Marvasti shows how simple the formula is. Report after report at [usmnews.net](http://usmnews.net) shows just how unwarranted the thing is. Then there's the \$9,300 raise that went to the new Draughn *Assistant* Professor Michael Wittmann, which, when compared to the paltry sum given to Talai Osmonbekov, makes the whole E&G thing look easy as pie.

Of course, you might say that these shenanigans involved new dollars -- merit raise moneys -- not old or existing dollars. Well, good . . . let's take a look at what's happening to those. For one, EFIB Chair George Carter used \$12,000 of those to reward former economics professor Charles Sawyer for teaching overload courses during the 2006-07 academic year. In one instance, fall 2006, Sawyer's teaching load before the overload consisted of only 6 hours. How's that for "not difficult?" Carter continues to shower himself with overload offerings this fall (2007), just as he did during 2006-07. In addition to these and other overloads, [usmnews.net](http://usmnews.net) recently uncovered the details of Carter's transfer of Farooq Malik from economics to finance, a move that resulted in Malik's salary climbing more than \$20,000 per year. How's that for some E&G fun?

No, Harold, there's nothing difficult about using Mississippi taxpayers' E&G dollars to supplement faculty salaries. Heck, that was even done indirectly for your own household when Carter put your wife, biology degree and all, on the EFIB payroll. In my view, that one was super nepotism-ically simple.