

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

## The 4/4 Poster Boy

If there ever was a poster boy in the CoB for a 4/4 teaching load, it's former CBA Dean William Gunther. For starters, Gunther is the only economist in the EFIB who is *not* academically qualified. EFIB Chair George Carter currently lists Gunther as "Professionally Qualified," a concept which is, for an academic *economist*, almost comical. When Gunther is not maintaining his professional qualification, he's teaching all over creation. He teaches at U of Alabama, West Florida U, and every other U within driving distance of . . . Josephine, AL. Well, at least it seems like he does.

How much does Gunther earn on an annual basis? There's his \$125,000 USM salary, plus the tens of thousands of dollars each year he must be getting from the State of Alabama's defined benefit retirement system. His total must be over \$200,000 per annum by now, not counting any OASDI receipts or private business earnings. With all of this, why even bother teaching a course at UWF for a measly \$4,000?

Gunther is doing nothing – nada – in terms of research. Thus, Gunther is who the 4/4 teaching load was created for, yet he doesn't have one. I wish we could at least say he teaches a 3/3 load, but that's not even true. William Gunther, the EFIB's only "professionally qualified" faculty member, has a 2/2 teaching load. That's as good as it gets in CoBland. Too bad *Gunther* gets it.

So, how does the Josephine-based EFIB instructor thank the Mississippi taxpayers (and the CoB's administration) for their generosity? He simply says (paraphrasing): "If there's a CoB UPC meeting on a Friday, you won't find me there. I'm outta here at noon on Thursdays." You see, Gunther is a busy man – he's got a CoB Bureau (the BBER) to ignore and a south Alabama beach calling his name.