

# 4 May 2006

## The Day Carter's Council of Chairs Dereliction was Good for USM

On 4 May 2006, the USM Council of Chairs held its final meeting of the 2005-06 academic year. This academic year was the first one of EFIB Chair George Carter's second tour of duty as chair. Carter was appointed to the position in the summer of 2005 by former CoB Dean, Harold Doty. As he was [77 percent of the time](#) that year, Carter was derelict in his Council of Chairs duties on 4 May 2006. And, as this report suggests, that dereliction was a good thing for USM and higher education in Mississippi.

That meeting was attended by voting members Adel Ali, Cheri Becker, Ann Blackwell, Skeeter Dixon, Jim Flanagan, Mike Forster, David Holley, Jay Norton, Barton Spencer and Ron Styron. Sheri Rawls also attended as a guest. At the end of the meeting, Forster introduced two resolutions to be considered by the Council. Each of these dealt with the 2006 merit raise process. The second one dealt specifically with "transparency regarding [the 2006] raises." That proposal was as follows:

"The Council of Chairs recommends maximum transparency in the decision making process concerning faculty raises, and calls upon chairs/directors and deans to share specific raise recommendations with individual faculty via private written communication."

As the Meeting Minutes indicate, "[a]fter some discussion a vote was held." The results of that vote are shown below in Table 1.

**Table 1**  
**Council of Chairs Vote on Raise Transparency Resolution**

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
5	4	1

---

Source: <http://www.usm.edu/coc/minutes.html>

As the information in Table 1 reveals, the transparency resolution passed by a slim margin – a single vote. Had the abstention been cast as a "no" vote instead, the resolution would have failed, and the Council of Chairs would have stood, at least in May of 2006, *against transparency* in the merit raise process. Another way to think about this process is to consider the question: What would have been the election outcome had Carter attended this particular meeting? An objective examination of the [George Carter pages](#) here at USMNEWS.NET supports a conclusion of "no."

USMNEWS.NET would like to know what you think about (1) how Carter would have voted, and (2) how you think each of the 10 members present voted. Please e-mail us your responses.