

## **And the winner is . . . . .**

There is a run-off election in the CoB for a new Academic Council member. The two contestants are Mark Klinedinst and John Clark. Both have been discussed frequently and on various topics on this site. The feeling in the CoB is that John Clark will win this election. He – it goes without saying – does not want to win, because it is something else he will have to do in addition to not doing much in the (in name only) Center or teaching two classes. It will surely add high octane fuel to his already primed gripe and whine machine. It appears this election result, if correct (we will be told later in the semester), indicates the CoB faculty's lack of interest in, and support of, John Clark. Perhaps there are some colleges at USM where faculty thoughtfully consider and discuss items [Note: public discussions were all but phased out under former CoB dean Harold Doty.] such as committee assignment elections, but absent someone publicly running for a position, the voting in the CoB tends to be a sort of litmus test. Dr. Clark appears to have won and lost it.

It is difficult to out-do Dr. Klinedinst in lack of effort and the appearance of anything other than apathy and absenteeism, but darn if Dr. Clark has not done it. Klinedinst is basically a null set: nothing much good (discounting a hallway nod), but nothing bad (now that he is no longer a ghost chair). Clark talks loudly, arrogantly, and profusely. The topic may seem to vary, but the real topic always ends up being John Clark. Not only that, it is always about how over-worked and under-paid the poor boy is. Please see other posts on this site about his salary, course load, and number of students. This workload stress seems to be in his mind only. Faculty members have heard this saga long enough that this vote was inevitable. If Clark somehow dodges this assignment, there will be others in the future if he stays on this course. It is one way people let you know they are not happy with your behavior. It is very unlikely Dr. Clark will get the “Ed Nissan service pass” with a new dean and provost arriving soon. We will be waiting for the online Academic Council minutes starting in the fall semester to see how Clark is doing, and which committee assignments he receives. We all hope Dr. Clark learns from this and starts to grow into some of his potential, but it does not seem likely. Old habits die hard.