

# BACKSTOP

## A LOOK AT MARK KLINEDINST'S ROLE ON "BLACK TUESDAY"

Economics professor Mark Klinedinst played an important role during the EFIB's 19 September 2006 – "Black Tuesday" – faculty governance re-vote. As has been reported at USMPRIDE.COM, George Carter came to the meeting, pulled out a piece of paper, took a deep breath, and then read a prepared statement (statement available at USMPRIDE.COM). Carter's statement indicated that, with his (Carter's) resignation from the department's prior Option II governance choice (chair plus two faculty), it was the University Counsel's opinion that the EFIB faculty must re-vote on the remaining two choices – Options I (3 faculty) and III (Chair only).

It was at this point that finance professor Tom Lindley asked Carter if he (Carter) had obtained the Counsel's opinion in writing. To that Carter replied simply "No." At that point Lindley pointed out to the group that the department didn't have anything to act on at that time. Sensing that the room might follow Lindley's lead, Klinedinst entered the discussion. According to USMPRIDE.COM sources, Klinedinst stated the following:

*What about people who voted for Option II, as I did? Now it's no longer there. I voted for Option II . . . the committee with the Chair, and now that's no longer there. And so I'd like to see it re-voted.*

Klinedinst, with the statements above, kept the re-vote in play. Why was Klinedinst so eager to take a re-vote before examining the details of the University Counsel's opinion? This question is made even more crucial, given the following facts, relayed to us by sources:

Klinedinst is a tenured, full professor. Thus, the only evaluation that affects him is the CoB's annual evaluation, a process that takes place in the spring semester only.

The EFIB had no faculty applying for tenure and/or promotion during the 2006-07 academic year.

These two facts point out that there were no governance issues in the EFIB that were to come up before January or February of 2007. Thus, the EFIB had about 4 months to settle the issue of Carter's

resignation, and delaying a re-vote would have meant simply that the department would have to go 1 to 2 additional weeks without a governance option in place. Given that the original vote for Option II took place in early/mid September, the EFIB had already survived about 2 weeks (at the beginning of the semester) without a governance option in place.

What Mark Klinedinst did for the CoB's administration on 19 September 2006, by serving as a "backstop," will no doubt be repaid handsomely during the spring of 2007, when annual evaluations are conducted. Klinedinst will be given a nice raise, and, as reported earlier at USMPRIDE.COM, despite not having published a journal article (available via EBSCOhost or other reputable databases) since 1998. These are the kinds of activities that are rewarded – instead of teaching, research and service – inside the CoB.