

Sketchy USM – UT-Tyler Connection Drawing Interest

HATTIESBURG – A sketchy connection between USM and the University of Texas-Tyler is now drawing interest from various corners of the academic world. That connection involves USM’s Executive MPH in Health Services Administration, which [was developed](#) in 2006. The faculty [listed for this program](#) are:

- Assaf Abdelghani, Adjunct Professor at USM
- Amy Arrington, Adjunct Professor at USM
- Lara Gardner, Adjunct Professor at USM/ Assistant Professor at Southeastern Louisiana
- Peggy Honoré, Associate Professor at USM/U.S. Dept of Health & Human Services
- John Lefante, Adjunct Professor at USM/Professor at Tulane University
- James McGuire, Chair/ Associate Professor at USM
- Thomas McIlwain, Adjunct Professor at USM/Interim Dean at Clayton State
- Peter Fos, Adjunct Professor at USM/Provost at UT-Tyler
- G. Edward Tucker, Adjunct Professor at USM
- E. Gordon Whyte, Associate Professor at USM

Other than the obviously blatant use of “adjunct” professors to teach a Master’s level program for USM, one interesting entry in the faculty listing above is that for Peter Fos, the former dean of USM’s College of Health who is now the provost at the University of Texas-Tyler. Fos is also listed as an adjunct professor at USM, creating a dual-employment situation that sources say stretches the bounds of employment regularities for both states involved.

UT-Tyler also now [boasts an](#) Executive Healthcare Administration program, delivered through its department of social sciences. The [faculty include](#):

- Larry Carter, Professor at UT-Tyler
- James Zoller, Associate Professor at the University of South Carolina
- Ray Newman, Visiting Professor at USM
- Peggy Honoré, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- John Lefante, Professor at Tulane University
- William Bellenfant, CFO Trinity-Mother Frances Health System
- Peter Fos, Provost at UT-Tyler
- Thomas McIlwain, Graduate Dean at Clayton State
- E. Gordon Whyte, Consulting Program Director at UT-Tyler/Program Director at USM

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that the overlap in faculty associated with the two programs is astounding. Fos is, according to this information, working heavily for both UT-Tyler, his primary employer, and USM. Whyte is directing both graduate programs – permanently for USM and as *consulting* director for UT-Tyler. As one source described, it appears as though those involved are “developing” the same program, and getting

paid for it, *twice*, not once. As such, this appears to be a racket of sorts. Lastly, USM's Honoré lists her dual association with the Washington-based U.S. Department of Health & Human Services in describing her participation with USM's graduate program. On UT-Tyler's webpage, however, there is no disclosure of her USM affiliation. There, only her association with HHS is disclosed.