

Breaking News

Another Controversial Faculty Governance Vote Upcoming in EFIB

HATTIESBURG – Reporters at USMNEWS.NET have learned that EFIB Chair George Carter has once again made the EFIB faculty's choice of governance options controversial. USMNEWS.NET has obtained an e-mail from Carter to EFIB faculty dated 21-Aug-07, copying Interim Dean Alvin Williams and Interim Associate Dean Joe Peyrefitte, in which Carter informs EFIB faculty that the department will hold its annual fall faculty meeting on 30-Aug-07. On that day the EFIB is to make its annual faculty governance selection, a process that was mired in controversy (in the EFIB and CoB) last year (see the USMNEWS.NET Archives for more on that controversial episode).

In this latest e-mail on faculty governance, Carter summarizes for EFIB faculty the two governance options that are available. In doing so, however, Carter mis-states the first option – the one concerning the committee governance structure. Not only does this mark the second consecutive year in which Carter has mis-stated the faculty governance options to his faculty, it also appears to start a trend of removing faculty "rights" from the governance options. As in the events of "Black Tuesday" of Sept-06, Carter has once again removed the option of being elected, as the EFIB Chair, to the 3-person governance committee. Carter's mis-stated summary, therefore, signals to junior EFIB faculty that, to have Carter involved in their annual evaluation, etc., Option 1, *as expressed in USM's Faculty Handbook*, is *not* an option for EFIB faculty.

We have inserted the relevant portions of Carter's e-mail below, including his (Carter's) summary of the two governance options available to EFIB faculty as well as the text of the USM Faculty Handbook as it relates to governance committee membership.

Date: Tue, 21 Aug 2007

From: [George Carter <george.carter@usm.edu>](mailto:george.carter@usm.edu)

To: cob-ecfinintbus@usm.edu

Cc: ['Joseph Peyrefitte' <joseph.peyrefitte@usm.edu>](mailto:joseph.peyrefitte@usm.edu), ['Alvin Williams' <alvin.williams@usm.edu>](mailto:alvin.williams@usm.edu)

Reply-to: [EFIB Department <cob-ecfinintbus@usm.edu>](mailto:cob-ecfinintbus@usm.edu)

Subject: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Fall Faculty Meeting

To the EFIB Faculty:

There will be a Fall Faculty Meeting between 12:15pm-1:00pm in IVN rooms JGH 203 and SSC 111 on Thursday, August 30, 2007. The agenda is:

- (1) Introduction of new faculty
- (2) Election of governance option (Personnel Committee) (see information below)
- (3) Election of three nominees to Dean Search Committee (see

my e-mail dated August 21, 2007)

(4) Administration of Faculty Senate survey by Trellis Green

There are two options for the governance option (Department Personnel Committee):

(1) Department Personnel Committee is composed of three faculty members (not including the Department chair)

(2) Department chair serves in lieu of Department Personnel Committee

The relevant University Faculty Handbook sections are:

8.3 THE DEPARTMENTAL PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

8.3.1 Committee Membership. All members of departmental Corps of Instruction with a minimum of three (3) years of service with the University and who hold the rank of associate professor or higher are eligible for committee membership. The Departmental Personnel Committee shall consist of three (3) standing members elected by the department faculty. The faculty may or may not choose to elect the department chair to the committee. Alternatively, the faculty may elect to have the department chair serve in lieu of the committee. In such cases, the chair will function as the committee. Only those faculty members who have achieved tenure may evaluate a colleague seeking an award of tenure. Likewise, promotions may be considered only by faculty holding a rank equal to or higher than the rank being considered.

George