

## Breaking News

### Carter Names ECON Search Committee

HATTIESBURG – Sources tell USMNEWS.NET reporters that EFIB Chair George Carter has named three EFIB faculty to form a search committee to fill an opening in economics at the CoB's Gulf Coast operation.



George Carter

According to sources, Carter e-mailed EFIB faculty on 1-Nov-07 and informed them that recently hired associate professor, Akbar Marvasti, would chair a three-person search committee. Marvasti, who is *untenured*, is participating in what some are calling the EFIB's "Quick-Strike Promotion & Raise" program. After just one year in the CoB, Marvasti submitted a dossier in Sept-07 containing an application for promotion to professor.



Akbar Marvasti

Marvasti was hired by Carter in August-06 as an associate professor of economics, and at a salary of \$80,000 per year. Then, in May-07, Marvasti's salary rose by more than 10%, based on receipt of the third highest 2007 merit raise in the CoB. Since arriving at USM about 15 months ago, Marvasti has produced only a single "C-level" publication (*The American Economist*). If his promotion to professor is successful, Marvasti will be earning about \$94,000 per year – a increase in salary of 17.5 percent in a very brief period.

Joining Marvasti in the search for a new CoB-GC economist will be, according to sources, economics professor Mark Klinedinst and assistant professor of economics Sami Dakhliya.



Mark Klinedinst



Sami Dakhliya

Like Marvasti, Dakhliya was hired in August of 2006, after attempting a tenure-track stint at the University of Alabama. Dakhliya's starting salary at USM was \$71,000, but it rose to just over \$80,000 after he received the second highest 2007 merit raise in the CoB. Dakhliya, who is also *untentured*, followed Marvasti's lead by submitting a "Quick-Fire Promotion & Raise" application in Sept-07. Should Dakhliya's promotion to associate application meet with success, his salary will increase to just over \$84,000 per year, representing a staggering 18.5 percent increase over a brief period since joining the CoB.

Klinedinst is also an interesting choice. Upon his arrival in the summer of 2003 as the business school's new Dean, Harold Doty selected Klinedinst to serve as chair of the EFIB. By all accounts, Klinedinst's tenure as chair (2003-05) was a near-complete disaster. Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that, during the only departmental meeting in Klinedinst's tenure to discuss making a new hire, Klinedinst attempted to blame a problematic search effort on former EFIB economist Charles Sawyer, only to have Sawyer and others rebuff such allegations during a heated exchange.<sup>1</sup> According to sources, the next morning Klinedinst, still upset, sent an "all College" e-mail that disparaged a finance professor's service efforts to the College. That e-mail led to a barrage of communications from various business faculty against Klinedinst. Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that Klinedinst was verbally censured by College administrators.

What may even make the selection of Klinedinst even more questionable is the fact that, though a tenured full professor, Klinedinst has not published a refereed journal article (listed in EBSCO*host*) since 1998 – 10 years ago! While the ECON search committee is sure to collect a number of resumes in their search, one has to wonder what will happen if any of the candidates get a copy of any of the committee members' resumes. Stay tuned for more on the CoB's 2007-08 hiring efforts.

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<sup>1</sup> Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that, in addition to other, perhaps worse, problems, Klinedinst booked a female candidate finalist into what was arguably the worst hotel in Hattiesburg. When word of Klinedinst's gaffe reached Doty's office, Doty made a trip to the EFIB offices to correct the situation. According to one source, Klinedinst's bungle led Doty to remark "... This is not the image that we [the business school] want to project."