

CoB News, 17 September 2009

Plan to Move ECO Looks Like a Go

Based on Ed Kemp's report in the [16-Sept-09](#) *The Hattiesburg American* entitled "Plan would move professors," it appears as though the USM administration has approved the plan to move the four mostly junior CoB economists (Deniz Gevrek, Daniel Monchuk, Sami Dakhliya, Akbar Marvasti) over to the CoAL in exchange for the retirements of the five mostly senior economists (William Gunther, Edward Nissan, Trellis Green, Mark Klinedinst, George Carter). According to Kemp, the proposed plan would take *all* economics courses and one of three economics majors away from the CoB and house them with the four economists in dean Denise von Herrmann's CoAL.

Dean von Herrmann told Kemp that approval for the move is "highly likely" at this point. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that, among USM's academic deans, von Herrmann holds the highest position from the Martha Saunders administration's perspective. Kemp also reports that *none* of the CoB economists were notified of termination prior to the 1-Sept-09 deadline, though sources tell USMNEWS.net that Kemp seems to continue to be confused as to what year the terminal contract would apply. According to Kemp's reports, the terminal year for USM faculty eliminated by the current budget cut and who were also notified by 1-Sept-09 is the 2010-11 academic year. Sources say the deadline applies to the 2009-10 academic year. In either case, the idea of a terminal year is now moot in terms of ECO.

According to Kemp, the five retirements will save the University about \$600,000 per year. Sources add, though, that without receiving a terminal letter there is nothing short of a signed agreement that would bind the five ECOers to retirement at the end of 2009-10. How this plays out remains to be seen. Finally, CoB assistant professor of economics Daniel Monchuk says that he is fine with the move to CoAL, and that "[i]t's a good potential fit . . . and this seems to be a trend with universities in moving their economics programs." Kemp cites Ole Miss as an example.

Props to Foster and Andrews

A number of USM students are now blogging about their experiences at USM (link available at www.usm.edu). One of these, Kierstan Knaus from Paducah, KY, reports

that she really enjoys her marketing research class with assistant professor of marketing Melinda Andrews. According to Knaus, Andrews is "young and humorous and definitely works to keep the class interesting and interactive. Also, she informs her classes of actual career opportunities." Knaus also reports that this semester she received a scholarship opportunity to assist assistant professor of marketing Jamye Foster in conducting research on brand loyalty. With all of the hoopla over the location of USM's economics programs/faculty, one realizes that nothing really like any of this has been said about any of the ECO faculty other than Sami Dakhliya, and sources say that much of Dakhliya's hype seems to have been self-promoted.

Will Monchuk Get Tenure?

Ed Kemp's recent report, linked above, notes that CoB assistant professor of economics Daniel Monchuk is in his sixth year at USM. That means that Monchuk will submit his tenure and promotion packet this academic year, and that it will move through the chain of command (governance) inside USM's CoB. According to sources, Monchuk may yet represent another opportunity for USM to achieve some savings, as he has what is reportedly one of the historically weaker tenure applications in ECO. Denial of tenure in Monchuk's case would save the institution another \$90,000 to \$100,000 in salary and fringes.