

# CoB News, 20 October 2009

## EPSIDIA?

During a recent USM Faculty Senate meeting, USM provost Robert Lyman told faculty senators that the four USM economists who will remain on board the institution after 2009-10 will possibly be joining the department of political science in the CoAL. In reality, there is no such thing as a “department of political science.” What there *is* in the CoAL is a “department of political science, international development and international affairs.” If the CoB’s four so-called “junior” economists join the ranks, that department will become something like the “department of economics, political science, international development and international affairs.” For those in the USM-is-all-about-initials world, that is the EPSIDIA department.

In terms of faculty, how will the EPSIDIA look? The chart below offers a start.

<u>Economics</u>	<u>Political Science</u>	<u>Int. Development/Affairs</u>
Dakhliya, Sami	Bekafigo, Marija	Butler, David
Gevrek, Deniz	Cooper, Subrina	Naghshpour, Shahdad
Marvasti, Akbar	Covarrubias, Jack	Pauly, Robert
Monchuk, Daniel	Gibson, Troy	St. Marie, J.J.
	Greene, Kate	Sayre, Edward
	Herenski, Robert	Wrighton, J. Mark
	Lansford, Tom	
	McBride, Allan	
	Newman, Bill	
	Parker, Joseph	
	Press, Robert	
	Steedman, Marek	
	<i>von Herrmann, Denise</i>	
	Wolfe, James	

As the chart above indicates, with only four members, the new CoAL economics unit will be the smallest of the three departmental units, trailing IDIA by 2 and PS by a whopping 10. With 24 total faculty, the EPSIDIA will be about one-third the size of the entire CoB (not including ECO), if not more.

Interestingly, the new EPSIDIA will have 6 “economists,” though only two will reside in its IDIA wing. These other two are Shahdad Naghshpour, who was affiliated with

the CoB for a number of years, and Edward Sayre. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that Naghshpour fled the CoB several years ago, while Sayre accepted a job offer with the IDIA wing instead of an offer to join the EFIB that was extended to him by George Carter during the early part of Carter's recent stint (2005-09) as EFIB chairman. Finally, the new EPSIDIA will include current CoAL dean Denise von Herrmann.

### **"Sami's Playground" - An Editorial by a 31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl Columnist**

The news item above about the new CoAL EPSIDIA is quite interesting. If it comes to fruition as expected, CoB associate professor of economics Sami Dakhliia will soon be joining new colleagues in political science and international development/affairs. Given Dakhliia's penchant for British studies participation, don't expect his travels to Europe (on USM's dime) to recede any time soon. In fact, I would guess that opportunities for these types of experiences, or what he sometimes likes to refer to as furthering international cooperation, will only increase for Dakhliia once he settles in across the street. Let's not stop there - how about some teaching in the foreign languages department, and some dual offerings with philosophy, etc.? Yes, the CoAL is going to be Sami's playground. Just sit back, CoB friends, and enjoy the view from the other side of the street.