

# Dakhlia Joins the Chorus

## COB ECO FACULTY SPEAK TO *THE HATTIESBURG AMERICAN* ABOUT PLIGHT

The CoB's economics faculty have officially gotten *The Hattiesburg American* in on the action over USM's decision to eliminate the economics majors and its 9 tenured/tenure-track faculty. In his [23-Aug-09 article](#) entitled "USM professors upset by cuts proposal," *THA* higher education reporter Ed Kemp spoke to a number of USM officials about the proposed cuts, including several CoB economists. According to former EFIB chairman [George Carter](#), the economics program appears to have been "targeted" by USM officials. As [Carter](#) told Kemp, if the proposed cuts go through then USM will stand alone as the only major university without an economics faculty. Recent reports here at USMNEWS.net have, however, pointed out that a number of "economics faculty" will remain at USM after the cuts go through. This list includes, but is not necessarily limited to, James Lindley (CoB), James Magruder (CoB), Farooq Malik (CoB), Shahdad Naghshpour (CoAL), and Edward Sayre (CoAL). CoB dean Lance Nail alluded to this (partial) list above in a [recent interview](#) with Meryl Dakin of *The Student Printz*.

Nail reiterated to Kemp that cutting the economics programs and faculty will save the university \$924,000 per year, at least using Academic Planning Group figures. He also reiterated that these programs graduate fewer than 5 students per year. According to USM figures cited by Kemp, the ECO programs graduated 17 students over the past five years, compared to the 2,046 graduated by the CoB as a whole. Thus, ECO has contributed only 0.83% of the CoB's total. The economists are, however, once again disputing this number by adding the IB majors to the total. Kemp's report indicates, though, that even with IB graduates included with ECO grads, the total still remains at the bottom of the CoB. USMNEWS.net sources say that this angle is a smoke screen now that IB students have been transferred to the CoB's management department, effective on 1-July-09 with the CoB's reorganization.



Sami Friedrich [Dakhlia](#) is one of nine tenured or tenure-track economics faculty whose jobs might be cut at the University of Southern Mississippi. (george clark | Hattiesburg American)

Untenured associate professor of economics [Sami Dakhlia](#) has now joined the public fray, making data available to Kemp that he says dispute those circulated by Nail. Nail says that the CoB's economists are teaching 348 student credit hours on average this semester, while [Dakhlia's](#) report indicates that the figure is 364. Using the 9 economists listed by *THA*, this translates into SCH totals of 3,132 and 3,276. Kemp lists, as one reason for these SCH totals, the four courses that CoB students are required to take from economics faculty. Two of these have, of course, been ECO 201 and 202. The other two are

presumably ECO 336, which is no longer required, and BA 301/303, which sources say will be moved into the management and marketing departments, where they are at many large universities. Nail told Kemp that the courses mentioned by the economists, those listed above, will not go away. In fact, Nail's plan calls for these same courses to be taught on an even more *economical* basis, in sections of 100 students each rather than the 30-40 seats currently being offered per section by ECO. Thus, USM stands to earn a much larger profit from these courses in the near future than it is earning from them now.

Judging by readers' posts to *THA* online, the general public is not buying the economists' arguments. Some of these are inserted below.

**usmfaculty** wrote:

Replying to mycarpenter:

None of the credit hours or tuition dollars will be lost. Other qualified faculty will teach the courses instead of this department. Tuition dollars stay the same & costs go down by \$900,000. If Economics is a \$700,000 cash cow now then it will become a \$1.6 million cash cow once other faculty take on the load. Life will go on as will the teaching of Economics.

The faculty in my dept teach 120 students (360 credit hours) a semester on avg per faculty & graduate 100 majors per year. We teach the same number of students as Economics but also produce majors because they can get a job when they graduate, unlike Economics graduates. The Economics faculty have been sucking resources out of the college for years. They will not be missed and taxpayers will not have to subsidize their living in other states & commuting in a couple of days a week to teach or not attending required meetings. Good riddance.

8/23/2009 1:17:55 PM

**mistacat** wrote:

Protest all you want, but the numbers show there is no need to continue to support a program that graduates so little. I am sure this was not a quick decision. Why should we tax payers continue to have money funneled into programs that are not necessary. Real life - cut backs have to be made and decisions like this are not made lightly - sound judgement has been used. Now, you have a real life lesson - life is not always fair. I can't think of too many professions where there is tenure no matter how little you produce - pink slips are usually produced to "free up your future" to move on in life and produce your worth. Nobody is that valuable that they are not indispensable! Although there are some who may feel this way.

8/23/2009 11:07:59 AM

**TommyTucker** wrote:

The university system is great at producing "victims". What makes these people think they are so important then the rest of us who are suffering during these economic recession, that we should suffer some more so they can avoid one ounce of suffering. Many of these university people are strong advocates of socialism and now they are feeling what the rest of us have felt for a long time and at a much deeper level. I am sick of this "victimization of America" which is promoted a lot by universities today. ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS need to PROVE their value to society or they need to be eliminated or curtailed and they should not have some sort of SPECIAL STATUS that gives them all sort of protection when the rest of us are suffering and making all sort of sacrifices. All of these people can be replaced at a later date if needed, NO ONE is nearly as valuable as these university people want you to believe they are. The world will continue to turn without such "expertise".

8/23/2009 10:32:47 AM

**LamarCovington** wrote:

Not enough notice? Denied due process? Does due process exist in the real world? At a Fortune 500 company I once worked for, people got "two weeks" notice. That consisted of handing them a check for 2 weeks work and escorting them out the door immediately.

A competing company in the same city once closed a 120 person office without any notice. People came to work on Monday morning, severance checks were on their desks and security guards were present to make sure they exited only with personal items.

One would think that people who teach business and economics would have some grasp of how things really work.

8/23/2009 9:02:51 AM

**careerwriter** wrote:

"Due process has been denied the economics faculty members who are to receive terminal notices. The USM reduction...was conducted without their knowledge, participation or ability to present relevant information that differed from presented information."

You guys need a reality check. Welcome to the REAL world where people get pink slips all the time with a 30 minute notice to GET OUT OF THE BUILDING. At least you get a year to clean out your office. All I can say is WAAAAAAAAAAAA. Grow up and be an adult.

8/23/2009 8:09:55 AM