

## ECO Back From *Venus*, REL Sent to Mars

Recent inspection of the *Fall 2010 USM Schedule Guide* reveals that the 206 USM students currently enrolled in two large sections of ECO 202 are likely seeing this 3-hour portion of their class schedule spin off in an increasingly uncertain direction. That is because their course instructor has changed for the second time, meaning that they are all now on their third instructor and the semester is only just over one month old. Their new instructor is **Charles Venus**. An Internet search reveals almost nothing about Venus, which is enough to know that he is nowhere near as qualified to handle the course as many of the economists who have departed USM in the past few years.

Venus follows **Allan McBride**, the instructor of record for (approximately) weeks 2-4 of the semester. McBride is a political science faculty member, who also currently serves as chair of that department. McBride's *lack of credentials* for teaching these courses has been the subject of previous USMNEWS.net reports and editorials. McBride was appointed to handle the two classes after week 1 (approximately), when the original instructor of record, former USM economist **Daniel Monchuk**, was taken off of the fall 2010 schedule. Recent reports indicate that Monchuk may be unemployed at the moment, meaning that he left USM without having alternative employment.

It is clear that, while the CoAL is presently dismantling its religion (REL) and philosophy (PHI) programs, the re-located economics program continues to flounder; sources state that its elimination altogether from USM is imminent. Finally, USMNEWS.net continues to gather details about Monchuk's departure and Venus' arrival. What has been collected heretofore paints a disturbing picture. Stay tuned for future reports on this subject.