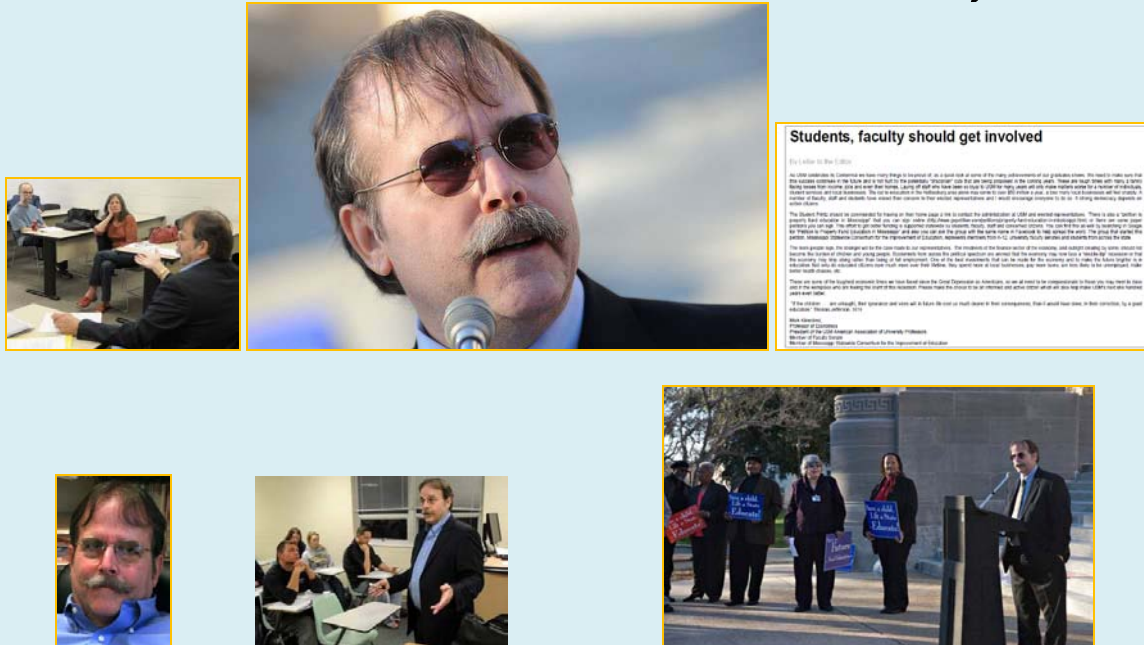


Elimination without Representation

How Dereliction of Duty Meant that Klinedinst's Crusade of 2009-10 was too Little, too Late

For months the campus at the University of Southern Mississippi has been bogged down in the politics of [budget-cutting](#). For the CoB's economics degrees and faculty, those politics struck hard and fast during the weeks of July and August of 2009, resulting in the [elimination](#) of both the degree programs and faculty. As reported by several news outlets, the five mostly senior ECO professors – [George Carter](#), Mark Klinedinst, William Gunther, Trellis Green and Edward Nissan – were ultimately forced to retire. This came through a [political solution](#) that allowed the few mostly junior ECO professors to remain on in USM's College of Arts & Letters. During the summer/fall 2009 political battles, both Carter and Klinedinst went on a media blitz, speaking with *Inside Higher Ed*, as well as local/regional media, such as *The Hattiesburg American* and *The Student Printz*. In his interview with *Inside Higher Ed*, Carter accused the USM administration of “subterfuge” in its efforts to oust the economics unit, which both he and Klinedinst described as very productive and valuable to the institution as a whole. Carter also [told IHE](#) that CoB-GC economist, Yosef Bonaparte, had been fired by USM during the spring of 2009, and that none of the economists had been given any reason for that administrative decision.¹

The Mark Klinedinst Crusade of 2009-2010 – An Illustrated History



In the past few weeks, Klinedinst has continued a crusade of sorts, while Carter has faded into the background. That crusade has been covered in some of the media listed above, as well as by USMNEWS.net. What hasn't been discussed to this point is whether or not Klinedinst adequately

¹ Sources tell USMNEWS.net that they are befuddled as to why Carter and the other economists waited until July, August and September of 2009 to speak out for Bonaparte, who had been “canned” several months prior. Sources are also mystified as to why the Carter-Klinedinst case for “subterfuge” has heretofore been void of details. It would seem that these two economists may have been able to quell the situation back in the summer of 2009 had they done something more than throw out the accusation and then walk away from it. Interestingly, others think Green could have [alleviated](#) some of the long-standing problems before they festered into the 2009 crisis.

used his position as a faculty senator at USM to attempt to mitigate the decisions that were coming down from the Martha Saunders administration with regard to economics. The USM faculty senate held two "Special Session" meetings in July-09 in order to discuss the dire budgetary situation that the institution was confronting at that time (and continues to confront today). The [first](#) of these was held on 22-July-09, while the [second](#) occurred a few days later, on 27-July-09. A check of the faculty senate meeting minutes from these two meetings reveals that Klinedinst failed to attend either meeting. He also failed to make arrangements for a proxy should the group take up a resolution or other vote. In skipping out on these meetings – occasions that some believe he could possibly have assisted his ECO constituents – Klinedinst did a disservice to those other senior ECO faculty who soon thereafter would be pushed off of the institution's payroll. Could Klinedinst have done anything to derail or curtail what was coming down the track? No one will ever really know. What is known, however, is that Klinedinst is not famous for his concern for duty, such as [attending](#) faculty senate meetings.