

## George Carter on Information and Happiness

### Revisiting the Carter-King E-mail Exchange Regarding Summer 2006 Teaching Loads in EFIB

Investigators at USMPRIDE.COM have put together more of the e-mail exchange between EFIB Chair George Carter and associate professor of finance Ernest King about Carter's use of selective course reductions in summer 2006 teaching loads. We have received word that one USMPRIDE.COM reader remarked, after reading the first report on this matter that was posted to this website, that Carter sounds more like a cult leader than an academic department chair. That may be as good a way of putting as any. This report offers more Carterology, though perhaps of a different sort.

**From:** Carter  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2006 11:14 AM  
**To:** ECO; FIN; IB  
**Cc:** Doty; Niroomand  
**Subject:** FW: Summer 2006 Schedule

To EFIB Faculty:

Ernie and I have had further discussion on this topic, and he agrees that the departmental faculty may have an interest in this exchange.

There is one correction to my statement below. I noticed after the e-mail that Trellis is teaching an ECO 101 course also so the two exceptions to the core only implication are Ernie's REI 325 and Trellis' ECO101.

George

**From:** KingE  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2006 10:56 AM  
**To:** Carter  
**Subject:** RE: Summer 2006 Schedule

Send it too.

Ernie

**From:** Carter  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2006 9:47 AM  
**To:** KingE  
**Subject:** RE: Summer 2006 Schedule

Ernie,

Other than your REI 325, the only courses that we are offering this summer are core courses in both Hattiesburg and the Coast: BA 200, BA 301, BA 303, ECO 201, ECO 202, ECO 336, and FIN 300. I have had student complaints about the lack of major

courses since some students planned to graduate in August, and now cannot. You can see from the staffing that just core courses were a strain to offer. Charlie agreed to just one course, ECO 336, to get that core course offered.

If you decide not to teach next summer, I will still need BA 200. It is a core course, and as such, would be offered in preference to major or elective courses. I would hope that you teach it because you are by far and away the best person to teach that course. However, short of that, I would seek an adjunct since we have no other business law faculty members.

You are right that I did not publicize selective course reductions when I was authorized to offer them. Rather, I went to the faculty who I perceived to be receptive and asked if they would come on board for summer teaching. I did not approach you, Trellis, or Sunny because the three of you were already on board, and I was not authorized to go across the board. Sunny already had a 1.5-hour course reduction because of the mechanics of his teaching our Coast stat on a 5W1 Tuesday-Thursday basis. You will see that 7.5 hours completely fills 8:00am to 10:05pm when considering Coast to Hattiesburg travel between 2:50pm to 6:00pm. In fact, he will have to leave at 6:30am to make his 8:00am class on the Coast.

I am not interested in issues that bother my faculty, "just going away." If you are not clear on an issue, keep it surfaced. The willingness to do that is a valuable departmental function, and you are one of the few who are willing to do that. Thanks. What do you think that we should do about this e-mail and reply? Did the previous one suffice, or should this e-mail and reply also go to the whole department? Should we put this issue up on EFIB-L?

Please keep in mind that I am not interested in whether faculty members are satisfied or happy with issues that are surfaced. Rather, I am interested in faculty members having as much information as I have on those issues so they can make their own minds up in an informed manner. We live in a world of constraint where decisions adversely impact some individuals. That is just the way it is. Satisfaction or happiness is their business, but understanding to the best that I can make that happen is my business, and responsibility. Again, I appreciate your helping me do that.

George

As you can see, Carter relates to King that he (Carter) is a "what is" kinda guy, and that King must understand that fact. King's satisfaction with the way the department is run by Carter is not part of the process. Instead, King is expected to simply endure and push on to the next "issue" that "surfaces."