

# Hosed by Carter

Recently, a complaint filed by an EFIB professor against EFIB Chairman George Carter's 2006 annual evaluation practices made its way to USMNEWS.NET. That complaint, along with other documentation sent to reporters at USMNEWS.NET, provide the basis for this report, which shows that Carter is not inconvenienced by honesty and truth when it comes to the evaluation of the faculty in his department.

Below, we insert a portion of Carter's explanation for the 2006 Service Rating of Franklin Mixon, professor of economics. Notice the first sentence in the excerpt from

*Chair, Department Economics Recruiting Committee.* Dr. Mixon is a full professor of economics, and enrollment of students in the economics majors (BSBA and BA) is so low that all of the required courses cannot be offered because there are not enough students to take the classes. The lack of students majoring in economics places the degree programs at jeopardy. As Chair of the Department Economics Recruiting Committee, Dr. Mixon provided no leadership in devising a department plan for increasing the number of majors. Rather, he unilaterally proposed that the department pay students \$300 each to major in economics or that the department change the name of the International Business degree program to Economics, thereby picking up 70 students. After making these suggestions by e-mail on the department listserv, he ceased addressing the responsibility. Because of accreditation and other demands, the department's senior faculty members are extended on service responsibilities. Dr. Mixon is an important senior faculty member, but he is not helping with the departmental service responsibilities.

Carter's report on Mixon. What do the fact that "Mixon is a full professor of economics" and "enrollment of students in economics majors . . . is . . . low" have to do with one another? By mentioning the two things together in the same sentence, apparently Carter believes that Mixon's position as full professor of economics may be causing low enrollment of students in economics majors, which in turn is making it difficult for Carter to offer the required courses – placing "the degree programs in jeopardy."

What did Carter do about all that? He indicates (see above) that he (Carter) appointed Mixon to be the "Chair" of the "Department of Economics Recruiting Committee." What was Mixon's response? Below, Mixon indicates (via letter to USM

Next, Dr. Carter refers to my failure to perform as "Chair of the Department Economics Recruiting Committee." (Despite Carter's proclamation, there is no such thing as a "Department of Economics" at the University of Southern Mississippi.) I was the only person assigned to the "Recruiting Committee." I was given no authority to enlist others to assist. This paragraph of my Report (Exhibit 1, page 8) is replete with disingenuous and/or libelous remarks. For example, Carter states that I "provided no leadership in devising a department plan for increasing the number of majors." This is patently false.

President Shelby Thames and USM Provost Jay Grimes) that "there is no such thing as a "Department of Economics" at USM – a statement that is correct on the facts – and that he (Mixon) was the only person assigned to the so-called "Recruiting Committee" by Carter.

Thanks to sources, USMNEWS.NET has acquired e-mail exchanges between Carter and Mixon (and the other EFIB faculty) discussing these very issues. In the e-mail below, Carter informs Mixon and the EFIB that Mixon, and Mixon alone, is in charge (as of 14-Nov-2006) of recruiting economics majors in order to save the program, and presumably faculty lines.

**From:** George Carter [George.Carter@usm.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2006  
**To:** 'Frank Mixon'  
**Cc:** 'EFIB Department'; 'Harold Doty'; 'Farhang Niroomand'  
**Subject:** ECO Recruiting

Frank,

Both Bill's review of the economics curricula and Mark's review of the ECO/IB WEAVE emphasize the need for us to increase the number of students majoring in economics. As you know, there are three economics curricula: BSBA, BA(Social Science), and BA(Mathematics).

To move us in this critical direction, I request that you take responsibility for developing and implementing economics recruiting plans. This responsibility will tie in well with your responsibility as ODE Advisor and will help move the department into a self-supporting environment where the economics curricula have a critical mass of students, as the Finance and IB curricula already do.

Thank you in advance for undertaking this important responsibility.

George

Note that nowhere in the e-mail above does Carter use the phrase "Recruiting Committee" or the term "Chair" when referring to Mixon's new responsibility of saving the economics programs from extinction. In fact, with the stroke of an e-mail, Carter appointed Mixon the EFIB's Student Recruiting Czar, a far cry from the way Carter characterized what Mixon was asked to do, and how he was supported in doing it, in his (Carter's) evaluation report submitted to Mixon and Interim CoB Dean Alvin Williams in April of 2007.

Sources indicate that Mixon accepted the responsibility and reported back to the EFIB that he (Mixon) was off and running with some ideas. In the meantime, newly-hired associate professor of economics, Akbar Marvasti, jumped in with an e-mail of his own to the EFIB Department (see below):

**From:** cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Akbar Marvasti [Akbar.Marvasti@usm.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2006  
**To:** 'EFIB Department'; 'George Carter'  
**Cc:** 'Farhang Niroomand'; 'Harold Doty'  
**Subject:** RE: [Cob-ecfinintbus] ECO Recruiting

Dear Colleagues,

As a new member of the Department, I believe that the Economics faculty is capable of offering more variety of courses and attract significantly more majors than our current status. In fact, in my opinion, the two issues are related. Given the size of the faculty, an expansion of the Economics courses would probably have a negligible effect on the number of preps. I think recruiting economics students deserves a top priority status.

Akbar

In what sources tell USMNEWS.NET is Marvasti's (see below) usual tactic, he jumps into the discussion in praise of an administrative decision made by Carter, but does not himself offer to help with the task at hand.



Akbar Marvasti

Mixon responded to Marvasti's comments with the e-mail that we have inserted below:

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Frank Mixon  
[jr.mixon@usm.edu]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2006  
To: EFIB Department  
Subject: RE: [Cob-ecfinintbus] ECO Recruiting

Akbar,

One of the things that might be good would be to provide 3 scholarships to really good students who might be interested in pursuing econ as a major. They could be identified at the soph/jr stage from the ECO 201 and ECO 202 classes. I would suggest \$3,000 annual scholarships until they graduate, and then go back to the beginning and start over with new students. This would be a \$9,000 annual commitment to the goal.

FM

Mixon suggests in the e-mail above that it "might be good to provide 3 scholarships to . . . good students . . . interested in pursuing economics as a major," and he (Mixon) offers an amount -- \$3,000 each (total of \$9,000).

Via e-mail, Marvasti responds with a positive comment of his own (see below):

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Akbar Marvasti  
[Akbar.Marvasti@usm.edu]  
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2006

To: 'EFIB Department'  
Subject: RE: [Cob-ecfinintbus] ECO Recruiting

Frank, I agree that offering scholarship would definitely entice some students to consider majoring in Economics.  
Akbar

Mixon then responded with what was referred to as Proposal #1. Mixon's e-mail to the department introducing this proposal is inserted below:

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Frank Mixon [jr.mixon@usm.edu]  
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2006  
To: EFIB Department; George Carter  
Cc: 'Farhang Niroomand'; 'EFIB Department'; 'Harold Doty'  
Subject: Re: [Cob-ecfinintbus] ECO Recruiting

Attachments: Proposal #1.doc; ATT02224.txt

EFIB Faculty,

I am attaching Proposal #1 relating to our efforts to increase the number of economics majors. Please send me your vote (yes or no) to franklin.mixon@usm.edu by Monday at noon. I will provide the results that afternoon, along with a new document listing the results of various ideas and proposals. That document will represent a running tally of things we do.

Thank you,  
FM

Proposal #1 was delivered as an attachment to the e-mail above, and it too is included below:

EFIB Faculty, as EFIB Chairman George Carter stated in an e-mail on 11.14.06, Bill Gunther's examination of the economics curricula and Mark Klinedinst's work with WEAVE emphasize the need for more economics majors. Dr. Carter asked that I assist in moving us in this critical direction. As part of that, we will take up a number of **Proposals**, each following the format below. Thank you.

## **PROPOSAL #1**

The EFIB faculty propose that EFIB Chairman George Carter forward to the Dean a request for funding of five (5) scholarships, each in the annual amount of \$3,000, to support the educational pursuits, through graduation (i.e., B.A. or B.S.B.A.), of five (new) economics majors. The scholarship recipients are to be selected from the population of ECO 201/202 students,

based on exhibition of high academic standing and an interest in majoring in economics. Upon graduation, the scholarships will be re-awarded using the above criteria.

Through Proposal #1 above, Mixon sets up a plan for the then-Dean (D. Harold Doty) to provide funding for five (5) scholarships to prospective economics majors, each in the amount of \$3,000 (for a total of \$15,000).<sup>1</sup>

At this point the “yea” votes began rolling in.<sup>2</sup> Shortly afterwards, assistant professor of economics Sami Dakhlija joined the discussion with the following e-mail:

**From:** cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Sami Dakhlija

[sami.dakhlija@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, November 16, 2006

**To:** EFIB Department

**Cc:** Harold Doty; Farhang Niroomand

**Subject:** Re: [Cob-ecfinintbus] ECO Recruiting

**Attachments:** ATT02245.txt

I don't know enough about the situation to make an informed decision, so please forgive my naive questions. I do apologize for missing the original meeting.

(1) Why again do we need more "official" econ majors? Is this to satisfy one of them accreditation processes?

(2) Can we allow students to declare econ as a minor? Would that satisfy what/who-ever needs to be satisfied? What does it take (in marginal cost terms) for, say, a finance major to declare an econ minor?

(3) Should students not be recruited right away, in their freshman classes? Can we perhaps offer a different kind of starter course that focuses more on real-world issues and critical thinking and less on what I consider student-repellents (such as  $w=MPL$ )?

(4) Are \$3,000 bribes really the most cost-efficient way to attract a handful of students? Should we not first figure out what is causing the low number of declared econ majors?

Sami

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<sup>1</sup> Readers of USMNEWS.NET are now quite familiar with former CoB Dean D. Harold Doty's use of the terms “booze account” and “fun money,” which represent the private contributions given to the USM Foundation to support the CoB's academic endeavors. It is likely that Mixon's Proposal #1 was aimed at securing \$15,000 per year from Doty's “fun money” fund.

<sup>2</sup> USMNEWS.NET is in possession of the “yea” votes, which began with “yeas” from Tom Lindley, Ernest King and Stephen Haggard.

There are at least two items of curiosity in Dakhlia's e-mail. The first is that he raises the question of "why" the department needs more "official" economics majors. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, Dakhlia (see below) introduces the term "bribes" to characterize the proposal to offer scholarships to prospective economics majors. This appears to be yet another example of a junior professor jumping on the Carter bandwagon in order to enhance his status in the department.



Sami Dakhlia

To Dakhlia's e-mail, Mixon provided the following response:

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Frank Mixon [jr.mixon@usm.edu]  
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2006  
To: EFIB Department; Sami Dakhlia  
Cc: Farhang Niroomand; Harold Doty  
Subject: Re: [Cob-ecfinintbus] ECO Recruiting

Sami,

Thanks for your comments. I will respond to each (in reverse order). Others may too.

(4) Scholarships are universal, so I didn't think this was anything new. USM touts Presidential Scholarships. Actually, in this case I got the idea and the \$-amounts from the BAC/Partnership Society Professorships (bribes?). Also, I will do my best to figure out what is causing the low number of majors. I will be reporting on this as time goes by.

(3) I don't disagree with recruiting students right away. We do have an economics 101 class (basic economics). One of my national panelists suggested that he was surprised to see we had an Economic Issues class listed as a 300-level course (i.e., ECO 305), instead of as a 100-level course. He didn't know about the ECO 101 course we do have. This is just one of the perceived problems with our curricula and course offerings.

(2) We might need to look into developing the minor more. I was told to take on the administrative task of increasing the number of majors.

(1) All I can say here is that Dr. Carter said that Bill Gunther's presentation and Mark Klinedinst's work with WEAVE showed us that it was critical that we get more "official" econ majors. As a previous post suggested, we do have a lot of IB majors, which is essentially the same curriculum as our econ major. Are we chasing our tails?

We will face a number of proposals, some of which might address some of your concerns.

Should I count you as a "no" vote on Proposal #1 (given your fourth comment)?

FM

As the votes were coming in on Proposal #1 (see above), Mixon took time to report to EFIB faculty the ideas of a “focus group” with regard to some of the EFIB’s course scheduling practices:

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Frank Mixon [jr.mixon@usm.edu]  
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2006  
To: EFIB Department  
Cc: 'Farhang Niroomand'  
Subject: Re: [Cob-ecfinintbus] ECO Recruiting

EFIB Faculty,

I recently met with a second focus group, consisting of 19 upperclass students, about the economics and statistics course offerings. As I capsulize the information they provided, I will forward it. One theme about our stats classes did come across consistently. The comments below give a feel for what the students view as a problem with the stats classes:

1. It didn't help that the class (BA 301) was only once a week.
2. BA 301 was a stretch for me. I took it at night. Not enough class teaching for this type of info.
3. BA 301 was difficult due to the time constraints.
4. Took five-week class of BA 301 in summer; too fast-paced for me personally.

It could be that, if our students are having learning difficulties in stats, as I have heard it reported, it's a formatting issue. Offering night sections, 5-week sections in the Summer, once per week sections in the day, or 8W1(2) sections might be too much.

More later.

FM

Mixon’s 17-Nov-2006 e-mail above points out that the focus group of “upperclass students” was the second focus group he had met with, and that this group had some suggestions for improving the EFIB’s scheduling of BA 301/303 classes. Unknowingly, Mixon’s work as EFIB Recruiting Czar had paid some dividends to Carter in his (Carter’s) efforts as the CoB’s AACSB Accreditation Committee Chair.<sup>3</sup>

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Frank Mixon [jr.mixon@usm.edu]  
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2006  
To: george.carter@usm.edu  
Cc: EFIB Department  
Subject: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Proposal #1 on Econ Majors

<sup>3</sup> However, there is no evidence to suggest that Carter incorporated any of the focus group findings into the CoB’s AACSB documents, even though there were some data reported in those AACSB documents to support the idea that learning shortcomings exist in the BA 301/303 courses. Instead, Carter chose to state to the CoB’s AACSB Peer Review Team that “Use of Minitab,” not addressing the scheduling issues, was to be the CoB’s solution to the learning shortcomings in statistics. For more on Carter’s solution, see [www.usmnews.net](http://www.usmnews.net).

Attachments: Proposal #1.doc; ATTO2445.txt

George,

I am writing to inform you that the department has voted in favor of Proposal #1, that 5 scholarships for economics majors in the amount of \$3,000 each be created. I am attaching that proposal (with vote tally) to this e-mail. On behalf of the department, I request that you forward the proposal to the Dean for his consideration.

Also, I want to remind you that I have not yet received two items I requested last week. These are (1) the number of economics majors we currently have, and (2) contact information on our recent graduates. Please forward those to me at your earliest convenience. As you know, I have established two blue ribbon panels and met with two focus groups in recent days. To make better use of the data that have been collected thus far, I would appreciate being given copies of all eco course syllabi from 2005-06, along with student evaluations of teaching and instructors' grade distributions for all eco courses from 05-06. These should tie in well with the other data in assessing where students' concerns are concentrated.

I can also report that the department did not show any enthusiasm for using the "Economics is Kewl" brochure that was developed a few years ago. I would, therefore, also request on behalf of the department that its use be discontinued at this time (if not already discontinued).

Thank you,  
Frank

On 20-Nov-2006 Mixon informed Carter and the EFIB via e-mail (see above) that Proposal #1 had passed. Mixon also requested that Carter forward the proposal to then-Dean Doty for his consideration. Mixon also reminded Carter that he (Mixon) had not received information that he (Mixon) had requested from Carter the previous week, and he (Mixon) also requested additional information from Carter.

From: George Carter [George.Carter@usm.edu]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2006  
To: 'Frank Mixon'  
Cc: 'EFIB Department'; 'Harold Doty'; 'Farhang Niroomand'  
Subject: RE: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Proposal #1 on Econ Majors

Frank,

By copy of this e-mail, I am forwarding your recommendation to the Dean.

Lola has made a list of economics majors (22 in total) and will provide that list to you. She is trying to determine the whether addresses are available for recent graduates, but has not yet had success.





As for the remainder of your request, your charge is student recruiting, not faculty evaluation. Please restrict your activity in the context of your student recruiting charge to student recruiting.

George

EFIB Chairman Carter responded the following day that he (Carter) was forwarding "your [Mixon's] recommendation" to the Dean (Doty). At that time, Carter also decided to address Mixon's previous request for information about the EFIB's current majors, but he (Carter) refused to provide Mixon with the additional information that Mixon requested. That information consisted of course syllabi, student evaluations of

teaching, and grade distributions of EFIB professors, as indicated in Mixon's e-mail. Carter's refusal made a pointed comment about Mixon's "charge" being "student recruiting," not "faculty evaluation." Reporters at USMNEWS.NET do not have any information (e.g., e-mails, etc.) indicating that Mixon wanted to engage in anything like the CoB's annual faculty evaluation process.

An e-mail obtained by USMNEWS.NET that was sent by Carter to all EFIB faculty on 26-April-2007 (see below) indirectly relates to Mixon's query about access to student evaluations of teaching. That e-mail concerned the EFIB's decision to move visiting

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| <b>Date:</b> Thu, 26 Apr 2007  |
| <b>From:</b> <a href="mailto:George.Carter@usm.edu">George Carter &lt;George.Carter@usm.edu&gt;</a>  |
| <b>To:</b> <a href="mailto:EFIB.Department@usm.edu">'EFIB Department' &lt;cob-ecfinintbus@usm.edu&gt;</a>  |
| <b>Cc:</b> <a href="mailto:Joseph.Peyrefitte@usm.edu">Joseph.Peyrefitte@usm.edu</a> , <a href="mailto:David.Duhon@usm.edu">David.Duhon@usm.edu</a> , <a href="mailto:Alvin.Williams@usm.edu">'Alvin Williams' &lt;Alvin.Williams@usm.edu&gt;</a> , <a href="mailto:Stephen.Bushardt@usm.edu">Stephen.Bushardt@usm.edu</a> , <a href="mailto:Jon.Carr@usm.edu">Jon.Carr@usm.edu</a> |
| <b>Reply-to:</b> <a href="mailto:EFIB.Department@usm.edu">EFIB Department &lt;cob-ecfinintbus@usm.edu&gt;</a>  |
| <b>Subject:</b> [Cob-ecfinintbus] EFIB Faculty Meeting   |
| <b>Part(s):</b>  |
|  2 <a href="#">Lambert Resume.doc</a> application/msword 45.84 KB    |
|  3 <a href="#">Fall 2006 Tch Eval - Lambert.xls</a> application/vnd.ms-excel 26.00 KB    |

To EFIB Faculty:

There will be an EFIB Faculty Meeting at 1:15pm in JGH 300 on Friday, April 27, 2007. The faculty meeting will follow the Friday Seminar which is also in JGH 300.

The department faculty meeting is to consider John Lambert for a tenure-track position. The attachments provide you information on his professional accomplishments this year. I checked with several management faculty members (Bushardt, Carr, and Duhon), and they made positive statements about Lambert's professional accomplishments for a person's initial year after receipt of degree.

George

assistant professor of international business John Lambert to a tenure-track position in the EFIB. Note that in the e-mail above Carter provided EFIB faculty Lambert's student evaluations of teaching for fall 2006, and he (Carter) invited at least three management faculty to assist the EFIB in a "faculty evaluation" process.

Additionally, Mixon provided Carter and the EFIB with a response to Carter's refusal for the additional information (see below):

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Frank Mixon  
[jr.mixon@usm.edu]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2006  
To: George Carter  
Cc: 'EFIB Department'  
Subject: RE: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Proposal #1 on Econ Majors

George,

Thanks for forwarding Proposal #1 to the Dean. I will await the list from Lola (economics majors).

I respectfully suggest that it is difficult for me to recruit "customers" without being able to identify problem areas with regard to the "product." The charge of student recruiting is hardly separate from the other issues. I think both of my blue ribbon panels, the national one in particular, would agree with me in this regard. Additionally, the student focus groups are consistently commenting on our major, course offerings, scheduling, instruction, etc. I will run your specific comment by the blue ribbon panels at some point.

You might want to send out another e-mail to the department reminding everyone that we are at a critical point with our low number of majors. Only 4 faculty voted on Proposal #1.

In the meantime, I look forward to receiving the requested materials.

Frank

**Mixon's response, that ". . . it is difficult for me to recruit 'customers' without being able to identify problem areas with the 'product'" indicates that Carter may have indeed been a hindrance, instead of a help, in Mixon's efforts to recruit economics majors.<sup>4</sup>**

**On 21-Nov-2006, then-Dean Doty responded to Carter's notification that the EFIB has asked the CoB Dean's Office for financial assistance. Doty's response, shown below, was negative:**

From: Harold Doty [<mailto:Harold.Doty@usm.edu>]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2006  
To: 'George Carter'  
Subject: RE: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Proposal #1 on Econ Majors

George,

I will approve the use of departmental funds to support these scholarships if that is how the department wants to allocate its funds. We will need to make sure that you have sufficient funding in the travel and commodities accounts to cover these amounts. We will need to talk with the Provost to determine if you can, in future years, use faculty raise money to support these scholarships rather than to support faculty raises. I am thrilled by the generosity shown by your faculty.

D. Harold Doty  
Dean, College of Business  
University of Southern Mississippi  
118 College Drive #5021  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001  
601.266.4659  
601.266.5814 (fax)  
harold.doty@usm.edu

**In the e-mail above, Doty simply approves the EFIB's use of its own funds to support the five (5) \$3,000 scholarships. Doty even suggests discussing with USM Provost Jay**

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<sup>4</sup> Mixon's e-mail also indicates that there was very little faculty participation in the process, even though Carter had painted the picture of a department in crisis.

Grimes the possibility of using EFIB-allocated raise monies to support the scholarships in future years, and he (Doty) closes his communication by lauding the generosity shown by the EFIB Department.

Carter then informed the EFIB of Doty's negative response, and offered his own

From: George Carter [George.Carter@usm.edu]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2006 11:05 AM  
To: 'Frank Mixon'  
Cc: 'EFIB Department'; 'Harold Doty'; 'Farhang Niroomand'  
Subject: FW: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Proposal #1 on Econ Majors

Frank,

In the e-mail below, the Dean authorizes us to use departmental funds for student scholarships. Unfortunately, the departmental budget is too tight to carve out \$15,000, or even \$3,000, for student scholarships. Though an interesting proposal, providing students scholarships to major in economics is not financially feasible.

George

negative assessment of the scholarship plan, despite having earlier described a crisis situation with regard to a paucity of majors. Mixon then sent an e-mail (excerpted, and inserted below) that followed up on Doty's suggestion for financing the scholarship plan through the EFIB:

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Frank Mixon  
[jr.mixon@usm.edu]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2006  
To: George Carter  
Cc: 'EFIB Department'  
Subject: Re: FW: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Proposal #1 on Econ Majors

George,

Thanks. I don't know where Dean Doty's comment about using faculty raise money to support scholarships came from, but let's run with it. Here are two alternate proposals that can be drafted:

1. Use departmental raise allotments to support the scholarships in future years.
2. Use departmental travel funds to support the scholarships, now and in the future.

I open "the floor" up for discussion of these, and will draft new proposals to adopt these funding plans. Please let Dean Doty know that it's the finance faculty who are generous, as none of the economists participated in the vote on Proposal #1. . . .

. . . I'm not seeing any enthusiasm among the economists for supporting an economics major. We'll see where this goes. I think I can draft a proposal that deals with this.

FM

Mixon's e-mail above indicates that two new proposals are to be drafted that address, either directly or indirectly, Doty's suggestion involving future EFIB raise allotments.<sup>5</sup>

Five days later, on 26-Nov-2006, Mixon sent an e-mail to EFIB faculty containing Proposal #2 for addressing the economics majors situation. That brief e-mail is inserted below:

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Frank Mixon  
[jr.mixon@usm.edu]  
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2006  
To: 'EFIB Department'  
Subject: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Econ Majors Proposal #2

Attachments: Proposal #2.doc; ATT02701.txt

EFIB Faculty,

I am attaching Proposal #2 for your consideration. Please vote by e-mail to me at franklin.mixon@usm.edu by 5:00pm on Monday, November 27, 2006.

Thank you,  
FM

Proposal #2 is inserted below:

EFIB Faculty, as EFIB Chairman George Carter stated in an e-mail on 11.14.06, Bill Gunther's examination of the economics curricula and Mark Klinedinst's work with WEAVE emphasize the need for more economics majors. Dr. Carter asked that I assist in moving us in this critical direction. As part of that, we will take up a number of **Proposals**, each following the format below. Thank you.

## **PROPOSAL #2**

The EFIB faculty propose that funding of three (3) to five (5) scholarships, each in the annual amount of \$3,000, to support the educational pursuits, through graduation (i.e., B.A. or B.S.B.A.), of three to five (new) economics majors, be provided from the EFIB's annual faculty travel budget. The scholarship recipients are to be selected from the population of ECO 201/202 students, based on exhibition of high academic standing and an interest in majoring in economics.

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<sup>5</sup> Note also that Mixon's e-mail indicates that the economists are not participating in the process, despite the picture of crisis painted by Carter's original e-mail on the subject (see above).

Over the next two days, 26-Nov-2006 and 27-Nov-2006, a number of responses to Proposal #2 began to appear. The finance faculty responded first, followed by the economists. The succession of e-mail votes and comments is inserted below for USMNEWS.NET readers:

**From:** cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of James T. Lindley  
[jlindley@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 26, 2006  
**To:** EFIB Department  
**Subject:** Re: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Econ Majors Proposal #2

**Attachments:** ATT02707.txt

Frank,

I would vote in the positive on Proposal 2 in principle. That said, I do not think it would be in order for a Finance faculty member to participate in a vote that would change the funding for economics faculty.

Tom Lindley

**From:** cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Ernest W. King  
[ernest.king@usm.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2006  
**To:** jlindley@comcast.net; EFIB Department  
**Subject:** Re: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Econ Majors Proposal #2

I agree 100% with Tom's comments, and Frank's proposal. I certainly encourage other Econ faculty members to express their views so the department as a whole has some idea if this is worth pursuing. My main regret is, based on the e-mail forwarded by George, the Dean has no desire to help fund this. That is very sad.

Ernie

**From:** cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Sami Dakhliya [sami.dakhliya@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2006  
**To:** EFIB Department  
**Subject:** Re: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Econ Majors Proposal #2

**Attachments:** ATT02758.txt

I don't mind contributing out of pocket to a fund for deserving students, but I'm against throwing money at a problem that can be solved by other means.

I vote NO.

Sami

**From:** cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Frank Mixon  
[jr.mixon@usm.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2006 6:52 AM  
**To:** EFIB Department  
**Subject:** Re: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Econ Majors Proposal #2

Sami,

Please provide examples of the "other means" and I can craft various Proposals out of them.

Thanks,  
FM

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Ernest W. King  
[ernest.king@usm.edu]  
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006  
To: EFIB Department; Sami Dakhli  
Cc: EFIB Department  
Subject: Re: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Econ Majors Proposal #2

Thanks for responding, Sami. I hope others do too. We need as much input as possible.

Ernie

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Daniel Monchuk  
[dmonchuk@gmail.com]  
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006  
To: 'EFIB Department'  
Subject: RE: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Econ Majors Proposal #2

While I like the idea of having a scholarship for students I am not keen on having it funded out of my travel funds. As it is I spend much more on conferences than for what I get reimbursed. I think the funding for this type of scholarship should be coming from the college or the university. I cast my vote as no on proposal #2.

Regards,  
dm

Daniel C. Monchuk  
Department of Economics, Finance, and International Business University of Southern Mississippi

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Akbar Marvasti  
[Akbar.Marvasti@usm.edu]  
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006  
To: dmonchuk@gmail.com; 'EFIB Department'  
Subject: RE: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Econ Majors Proposal #2

I have voted yes on the need to attract economics students and certainly financial assistance in the form of scholarship can be instrumental. I too vote no on proposal #2. For those who travel, presentations at meetings are an important component of refining papers and interacting with scholars from other institutions. Besides, travel budgets are typically departmental, not discipline based. Perhaps George can shed light on this issue.

Akbar

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Akbar Marvasti  
[Akbar.Marvasti@usm.edu]  
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006  
To: 'EFIB Department'; dmonchuk@gmail.com  
Subject: RE: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Econ Majors Proposal #2

Given the apparent lack of internal sources of funds for the scholarships and the disagreement on the use of faculty funds for this purpose, perhaps we should look for external sources.

Akbar

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Frank Mixon  
[jr.mixon@usm.edu]  
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006  
To: EFIB Department; Akbar Marvasti  
Cc: 'EFIB Department'; dmonchuk@gmail.com  
Subject: RE: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Econ Majors Proposal #2

Akbar,

Given that Dean Doty has denied support for this project, I would assume that precludes use of his externally raised funds. Thus, if this vote goes as it appears it will, we will have no access to funding to support this critical process of increasing our majors.

FM

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Ernest W. King  
[ernest.king@usm.edu]  
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006  
To: EFIB Department  
Subject: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Recruiting

I understand not wanting to lose the little travel funding we have now. So what would be "costless"?

How about having the better received, more student-friendly professors teach the 201 and 202 courses as a recruiting tool? It seems to me that would be better than the 101 course. I am sure we all can relate to liking a subject in college because of having a good teacher. Is this worth a try? Can there be faculty input in this decision if it moves forward?

Ernie

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Akbar Marvasti  
[Akbar.Marvasti@usm.edu]  
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006  
To: 'EFIB Department'  
Cc: dmonchuk@gmail.com  
Subject: RE: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Econ Majors Proposal #2

Can we engage in a new, targeted, fund raising ourselves?  
Akbar

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Frank Mixon  
[jr.mixon@usm.edu]  
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006  
To: EFIB Department; Akbar Marvasti  
Cc: 'EFIB Department'  
Subject: RE: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Econ Majors Proposal #2

I don't believe so.

Each of the e-mails above contributes something interesting to this episode.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Lindley is openly supportive. King expresses sadness and regret at the lack of support from the CoB's central administration. Dakhli indicates that he is against "throwing money" at a problem that "can be

On 27-Nov-2006, Mixon reported to Carter and the EFIB that Proposal #2 was destined for failure (see e-mail below). However, Mixon also announced that

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Frank Mixon [jr.mixon@usm.edu]  
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006  
To: EFIB Department; george.carter@usm.edu  
Subject: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Proposals #2 and #3

George,

I will forward the results on Proposal #2 this evening. It doesn't look as though it will pass. In the meantime, Proposal #3 has passed, and I am forwarding it to you herewith.

Proposal #3: Frank Mixon contributes his own annual travel allotment (\$1,800, based on my understanding) toward the establishment of one (1) scholarship to be awarded to a new economics major.

Thank you,  
FM

Proposal #3, that he (Mixon) provide his annual travel allotment to support one scholarship, had passed (see highlighted portion above). Mixon's e-mail served to forward that result to Carter (officially).

It was at this point that Dakhliya stepped in and offered the following thought:

**From:** cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Sami Dakhliya [sami.dakhliya@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2006 12:59 PM  
**To:** EFIB Department  
**Subject:** Re: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Econ Majors Proposal #2

**Attachments:** ATT02810.txt  
Frank,

Since IB and econ have essentially the same curriculum, we already have plenty of econ

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solved by other means." Mixon thanks Dakhliya for responding, and asks for examples of the "other means." King thanks Dakhliya for participating, and offers a plea to the entire EFIB for "as much input as possible." Monchuk likes the idea of scholarships, but thinks the funding should come from the CoB Dean or USM central administration. Marvasti states that scholarships can be instrumental, and that "we" should look externally for assistance (again Marvasti says "we" but offers no assistance). Mixon indicates to Marvasti that there does not appear to be any chance for funding to reverse the "critical" situation with economics majors. King supports Mixon's concerns about "the product." Marvasti then asks if "we" can engage in a targeted fundraising (to which Mixon states "no"). ***Mixon then contributes his annual travel budget to support the scholarship program!***

majors. We just happen to call them IB students. It's a semantics problem, not a structural problem.

Sami

Dakhli's e-mail indicates his belief that, because IB and economics essentially have the same curriculum, there are plenty of economics majors (in the form of IB students). **Dakhli states that it's "a semantics problem, not a structural problem."**

To Dakhli's thought, Mixon responded with the following e-mail on 28-Nov-2006:

From: cob-ecfinintbus-bounces@usm.edu on behalf of Frank Mixon [jr.mixon@usm.edu]  
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2006  
To: 'EFIB Department'  
Subject: [Cob-ecfinintbus] Proposals #2, #3, and #4

Attachments: Proposal #2.doc; Proposal #3.doc; Proposal #4.doc; ATT02822.txt

EFIB Faculty,

Last night I sent out an e-mail concerning Proposals #2, #3, and #4. That e-mail has yet to arrive in my own folder, so I suspect none of you has received it either.

I am attaching those Proposals to this message. Proposal #2 failed to pass. Proposal #3 did pass, so I would request, on behalf of the EFIB faculty, that Chairman Carter implement that one. I am attaching Proposal #4 for your review. Please cast your vote on Proposal #4 via e-mail to me by 2:00pm today.

Thank you,  
FM

In the e-mail above, Mixon reiterates that Proposal #3 (see below) has passed, and he (Mixon) requests, on behalf of the EFIB faculty, that Carter implement Proposal #3.

EFIB Faculty, as EFIB Chairman George Carter stated in an e-mail on 11.14.06, Bill Gunther's examination of the economics curricula and Mark Klinedinst's work with WEAVE emphasize the need for more economics majors. Dr. Carter asked that I assist in moving us in this critical direction. As part of that, we will take up a number of **Proposals**, each following the format below. Thank you.

### **PROPOSAL #3**

EFIB professor Frank Mixon contributes his annual travel allowance to support the funding of one scholarship to support the educational pursuits of a new economics major. The scholarship recipient is to be selected from the

population of ECO 201/202 students, based on exhibition of high academic standing and an interest in majoring in economics.

Mixon's e-mail also attaches a new proposal – Proposal #4 – for a departmental vote. That proposal, inserted below, follows the spirit of Dakhli's comments by suggesting that the economics and IB degree programs be combined and renamed "Economics and International Business."

EFIB Faculty, as EFIB Chairman George Carter stated in an e-mail on 11.14.06, Bill Gunther's examination of the economics curricula and Mark Klinedinst's work with WEAVE emphasize the need for more economics majors. Dr. Carter asked that I assist in moving us in this critical direction. As part of that, we will take up a number of **Proposals**, each following the format below. Thank you.

## **PROPOSAL #4**

The EFIB faculty propose that the College of Business' international business degree (major) be combined with its economics degree (major) to form a single degree (major) to be referred to as a BSBA in **Economics and International Business**.

Once again the votes began to arrive, and all who voted were in favor of the proposal, including Dakhli.

To wrap this report up, we have invited Duane Cobb to offer his commentary on this episode in the EFIB.

### **Commentary by Duane Cobb**

No, this report does not introduce a new clothing line, as the title might suggest. It does, however, provide a case that makes it abundantly clear that George Carter is unfit to govern a department in the CoB or in any other academic institution. From the use of the phrase "Department of Economics Recruiting *Committee*" (emphasis added) to the inclusion of the term "Chair," disingenuous is too kind a description to apply Carter's characterization of Mixon's service work in this regard. Let's list all the places where Carter's evaluation was disingenuous at best, and libelous at worst, as claimed by Mixon in his request (to Thames and Grimes) for disciplinary action against Carter:

- There was no recruiting committee. Mixon was indeed the "czar."
- Mixon was the "chair" of himself.
- Based on the e-mails above, all Mixon did was provide leadership. The problem seems to have been a lack of support. Where were senior professors, such as Charles Sawyer, Mark Klinedinst, Bill Gunther, Edward Nissan, and George Carter? They were nowhere to be found in the entire discussion.

- Carter simply makes stuff up when he characterizes Proposals #1, #2 and #4 as Mixon “unilaterally” putting forth the idea of providing \$3,000 scholarships and/or restructuring the major curricula. Geez – Carter can’t even get the numbers straight (\$3,000 ≠ \$300) or the names right (Economics & IB ≠ Economics). For one, then-Dean Doty supported the scholarship plan, as did members of the EFIB. Second, the idea for restructuring and renaming the curricula came from Dakhli, not Mixon.

Carter now belongs to Interim CoB Dean Alvin Williams, just as if Williams had chosen him to lead the EFIB, as he (Williams) did with marketing professor Tony Henthorne and Management/Marketing. This whole episode makes it clear that Carter is willing to do and say anything to punish those in the EFIB who do not agree with him.

**Let’s get things straight:** George Carter assigned Mixon to Chair a one-man committee, then he (Carter ) ran for the hills (in terms of support). The EFIB voted on, and passed, a resolution asking Doty to provide funds. Doty said “no,” though he lauded the idea and asked Carter to search for money. Carter quickly said “no money here,” and asked Mixon to continue the trek. Mixon then, following Doty’s lead, proposed that the EFIB faculty consider contributing future raises and travel accounts. The economists then ran for the hills, shouting “I realize we have no majors, and thus no reason to exist, but don’t touch my travel money!” Mixon then contributed his own travel account – no one said anything, not even “That’s great.” Dakhli chimes in and suggests that the department combine eco and IB and rename the major ECO & IB. Mixon drafts the proposal, it passes overwhelmingly. Mixon forwards proposal to Carter, no action taken. Five months later Carter writes to Interim Dean Williams: “Gave Mixon ‘Chairmanship’ of this ‘Committee,’ and all he did was suggest that we ‘bribe’ CoB students with drugs and alcohol to major in economics. Then he suggested that we rename all CoB majors ‘economics’! Can you believe that? After that, Mixon disappeared and we never heard from him again. And, he never spent any of the \$30,000 that I budgeted for this process, nor did he ever use the first-floor room (“Economics Department Assurance of Recruiting Majors”) that we provided him. That s.o.b. is getting a 1.00 in Service!”

Facetious though it may be (just barely), that’s how we see it.

*Duane Cobb*