

How far apart are John Clark and Larry Eustachy?

How Coach E's Decision to give \$25,000 back to USM Puts a Gulf between the Two

Last week (the last week of Feb-09) USM men's basketball coach Larry Eustachy [decided to return](#) to USM the \$25,000 in bonus money that he has earned over the course of the 2008-09 basketball season. The [reasons for doing so](#), according to Eustachy, are (1) the struggling Mississippi economy and (2) his (LE's) poor coaching performance over the current season (USM is currently 14-14 on the year). Both (1) and (2) are beyond question. Even die-hard LE fans on *Eagle Talk*, the main USM fans board, are now calling for his job. A recent review of Eustachy's tenure at USM, using data available from well-known NCAA evaluator Jeff Sagarin, supports the views of those on *Eagle Talk* who are now begging USM athletics director Richard Giannini and USM president Martha Saunders to replace Eustachy. Those data, which *do not include* competition again *non*-Division 1 opponents, are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1
Larry Eustachy's Tenure as Head Men's Basketball Coach at USM, 2004-present

Season	Overall Record	Win Percent
2008-09*	11-14*	44.0*
2007-08	15-14	51.7
2006-07	16-11	59.3
2005-06	7-21	25.0
2004-05	8-17	32.0

*=partial season (result).

As Table 1 above indicates, Eustachy is wrapping up his 5th season at the USM helm, and as of 2-Mar-09 his winning percentage on the year is only 44.0%, down from last season's (disappointing) 51.7% mark. So far, 2006-07 has been Eustachy's best season at USM, with his Golden Eagles going only 16-11 (59.3%) on the year.

Not unlike Eustachy, CoB associate professor of finance John Clark also receives a salary bonus in addition to his MS-taxpayer supported base of about \$110,000. In Clark's case the bonus, at least \$10,000, is received for "serving" as the director of the CoB's Center for Financial Services (CFS). However, and not unlike Eustachy's situation over the past few years, Clark is not living up to expectations (low though they are) when it comes to his CFS directorship. As most, if not all, CoB faculty know, Clark's first-floor (JAG) CFS complex is rarely ever open and/or utilized, at least the way intended when it was set up by former CFS director Michael Melton, who is now with Roger Williams University. In many ways, Clark's *underperformance* is even more glaring than Eustachy's. When that can be said about you, especially in light of the fact that LE gave back his salary premium, you can only hope that you've sunk as low as possible. In Clark's case, who knows? Giving back his \$10,000 CFS "bonus" would be a good start to climbing up to where Eustachy is, at least in the eyes of USM supporters.