

## *Instructors*

Instructors can serve many uses in academic departments. The CoB traditionally loved instructors (Dean Tyrone Black literally did – his wife was an instructor in accounting) and had one in most, if not all, departments. Economics has always desired many instructors because they (economics faculty) are resource hogs. Currently the role of instructor has been somewhat modified to be several adjunct ABDs from nearby universities. In theory this helps ameliorate the educational short-comings of most instructors; in practice, especially for only one semester, the benefits are questionable. The benefits are further negated by the inability to interact well with students in the classroom.

What is lost educationally (but can be replaced to some degree with real experience) is gained with a full-time person who is – at least in theory – dedicated to the college. Instructors teach many classes – which should also mean many students as well – and should cover many service opportunities for the departments. Instructors can be a highly cost-effective resource for the department that also allows faculty with research responsibilities to have more time to focus on research.

Currently there are a few instructors in the CoB. Dolly Loyd, a veteran Marketing instructor, covers her classes, handles the student group, handles a lot of the advising load, and also has presented academic papers at conferences. In short, she has been the classic instructor, and more. Amy Sevier is a tremendous credit hour generator for the CoB and has never received her due for that. Like Loyd, she does all the role calls for, and more. Susan Doty has made certain stakeholder groups happy with her economics education program; that is far more people than her husband ever made happy. Evelyn Green in Tourism Management seems to work hard for her area both in the college and outside of it at many promotional functions. She is a veteran employee of USM. Lastly, Patty Munn, an old hand in Accounting, handles many of the usual roles but in an “accounting way”. She only does what the director says to do. She mainly runs the student accounting group – because all the real faculty members run from it like it has AIDS – like it is her own personal sorority, according to many students. That has always been the “accounting way” to do it, so she is well thought of in accounting.

Other instructor opportunities exist in the CoB. There are faculty who are not research active, by any definition, and can be moved more formally into that instructor role. For example, Jim Henderson in accounting: enough about what he used to be; what is he now? He is grossly over-paid to teach a few principles classes. He needs to teach more classes and more of a variety of courses, and take on a much larger service role for the area. Scott Magruder is working hard to become the next MIS instructor; it is his time for him to act like a real faculty member, or receive a much larger teaching and service load. Dave Duhon, never much for research, appears to be transitioning to the instructor label via the interim chair position after Tony Henthorne departs. Mark Klinedinst is a likely one to fill an instructor role in Economics. No one is ever sure when he is here or what he does.

Many other possibilities exist for instructor roles in the CoB. Dean Nail may well want to move away from this structure in favor of a more research active faculty, but that will take time and money to do. It will be interesting to watch how he handles the instructors in the CoB.