

Ironic Cruelty

A Guest Editorial by Victoria Tyler

If the harms of the past weren't so significant it would almost be humorous to read what the CoB's economists are now saying – that they are victims of cruelty – in response to the Southern Miss administration's decision to save \$1 million in taxpayer funds by cutting economics at the institution. From the "Shame on you, ___!" remark hurled at a former female assistant professor of economics at USM, to the "economics majors 'committee'" games played on one of the CoB's most productive scholars (also an economics professor), the CoB's economists have either participated in or countenanced some of the most despicable acts of professional cruelty the organization has ever seen. To see some of the perpetrators of these kinds of episodes – former EFIB chairmen George Carter and Mark Klinedinst – now speaking publicly about failings of due process, being targeted, and subterfuge simply boggles the mind.

For sure, the CoB's seven other economists, all of whom are gone after 30-June-2010, are eating this stuff up, while the organization's 60 or so other business faculty can't wait for next summer to get here. "Loud and ugly" is the way a recent [installment](#) of *GH Chatter* predicts how the coming 2009-10 academic year will be, thanks mostly to the rowdy bunch of economists who inhabit the upper cavities of Joseph Greene Hall. What has become of the CoB's economists is just what Carter said – they're pariahs, and in more ways than one. Maybe, just maybe, in another twist of fate the CoB's majority can remind the former captains of collegiality just what the term implies, and apply it directly to them. To not do so could result in problems ranging from a sinking of morale (even further) to issues with AACSB in 2012.

Now, in the December of his academic career, Carter is poised to "take on" the administration of USM, and perhaps even the IHL Board, which is now headed by the newly-appointed Hank Bounds. In doing so it seems he has forgotten his own best piece of advice to a then-junior faculty in his charge. That advice came as the answer to the question, "[w]hat happens when faculty take on administration?" The answer, Carter's answer, "[t]hey (faculty) get 'stuffed'." Perhaps Carter should take a moment to re-read the "What Carter Thinks" series, or maybe even listen to the tape.