

Is CoAL-ECO Coming Apart at the Seams?

Comments from von Herrmann and McBride Indicate as Much

Samantha Schott's [4-May-10 report](#) for *The Student Printz* entitled "The university must hire two new economics professors" reveals some of the [details of difficulties](#) being faced by CoAL dean Denise von Herrmann in [keeping](#) the fledgling CoAL-ECO program together. And, these problems are coming *before* the program is even in gear and [covering course sections](#) in the Liberal Arts Building. According to von Herrmann, two of the four economists whose USM careers were saved by the retirements of five senior economics professors have informed USM that they have secured employment elsewhere, leaving USM's CoAL with only two remaining economists to support a B.A. program planned for four.¹ The CoAL dean then proceeded to tell Schott that ". . . we're looking to temporarily find two faculty to teach the classes that those two who left us would have taught. It's nothing unusual at all. People leave and we hire temporary people all the time."

All of this must seem strange to USM faculty, who have been under the impression that the university was committed to developing the economics program in the liberal arts college. Regular readers of USMNEWS.net have, however, been [forewarned](#) that the USM administration may not actually be committed to the venture in any real way. CoAL dean von Herrmann's remarks were buttressed by statements provided to Schott by Allan McBride, the chair of CoAL-ECO. As McBride, pictured below, explained, ". . . we're looking to replace those two. They'll be temporary hires. And we're just going through the normal process of looking for qualified people. You talk to people who know people, and you find folks out there who have the qualifications."²



Allan McBride

The comments from CoAL brass seem to suggest that even the B.A. in economics at USM will fade away once current majors have graduated and moved on. They also suggest that USM administrators are having little, if any, luck convincing the five forced retirees from CoB-ECO to stick around in any sort of temp fashion – a result sources say is not unexpected. One of these, Edward Nissan, is not exactly qualified to set up in CoAL-ECO. Of the remaining four, William Gunther and George Carter have [nice retirement set-ups](#), according to sources. Reports are now circulating that another, Mark Klinedinst, has turned down overtures from von Herrmann and others, and will be departing USM after 30-June-10.

¹ Actually, von Herrmann's information is a bit dated. Though Sami Dakhli only recently informed USM brass that he has [secured a job](#) at a French university for 2010-11, Deniz Gevrek is now working, and [has been](#) since Jan-10, for Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi.

² The photo of McBride above accompanied Schott's report for *TSP*. In depicting McBride in a gleeful mood at the prospect of CoAL-ECO falling apart, this photo adds to others in the media that seem to show that USM administrators, like provost [Robert Lyman](#) and president Martha Saunders, are happiest when USM faculty are being terminated in one way or another. Other photos like the one above are discussed in the USMNEWS.net Archives.



Monchuk



Marvasti

For now, CoAL-ECO is [left with only](#) Daniel Monchuk and Akbar Marvasti, both pictured above. Who gets to join this duo as economics instructor, adjunct, etc., remains to be seen. One thing seems certain – with two *or* four faculty, CoAL-ECO will be less than even a shell of its former CoB-ECO self.