

Klinedinst vs. von Herrmann

How the Elimination of ECO is Affecting Relationships at USM

The big news around USM may be the recent drop from Tier III to Tier IV status (as per *U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges 2010*), but the battle brewing between economics professor Mark Klinedinst (pictured below) and CoAL dean Denise von Herrmann did not escape most readers of the 20-Aug-09 issue of *The Student Printz*. According to Meryl Dakin's [20-Aug-09 report](#) entitled "Department of Economics in crosshairs of planned cut," that battle now looms, with Klinedinst opposing the Saunders administration's proposal to cut the CoB's economics majors and its 9 professors, and von Herrmann supporting that very same decision.



The CoAL's von Herrmann told Dakin "[the Academic Planning Group] felt like a million dollars to teach service courses and twenty majors was pretty expensive," so, as a member of the APG, von Herrmann supported the elimination of the economics majors and faculty. Klinedinst, on the other hand, told Dakin that he disagreed with von Herrmann, noting that the ECO faculty produce (on average) double the student credit hours of both the average USM and CoB faculty members.

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that it was once difficult to imagine a tussle between two USM faculty like Klinedinst and von Herrmann. However, what was once almost unfathomable will more than likely become a common occurrence as USM faculty fight for survival amidst the worst economic period many have seen in decades. USM administrators are bracing for a mid-year cut that may necessitate millions of additional cuts in programs and faculty. Faculty members like those in ECO are complaining that the \$8 million in cuts proposed by the APG are unnecessary. As the battle wears on, members of the local community will likely side with the USM administration, given the high rates of unemployment and economic distress being felt outside the gates of Hattiesburg campus.