

The following statement appeared on www.usmnews.net on June 9, 2007.

Dr. Mike Madaris contacted USMNews.net and requested that we make the following statement. "Mike Madaris has resigned his position at PCS [Presbyterian Christian School] where he has served on a full-time basis for 4 1/2 years, and has accepted a position as a professor at William Carey U. Mike has also taught some classes here in USM's COB/ EFIB dept." Dr. Madaris also pointed out that he had taught several classes at USM as an adjunct since 2002.

Dr. Madaris' request – that the preceding statement be published – highlights an interesting quirk of human nature: that presentation of information matters greatly to some and not at all to others. USMNews.net previously reported that Madaris was a "loss" to the CoB, since he accepted a full-time position at William Carey University. In the original USMNews.net reports, no mention was made of Presbyterian Christian School or Madaris' employment or connection with that institution.

In actuality, Madaris will be a loss for PCS, but USMNews.net doesn't report on PCS, it reports on USM. USMNews.net's original reports were factually correct, though they may have differed from Madaris' view of the situation. For example, from Madaris' point of view, it would seem that the majority of his income is derived from his duties at PCS (where he has taught for 4 ½ years), with USM providing supplementary income on a per class basis (over the past 5 years in summers and, more recently, regular semesters). Again, from Madaris' point of view, the emphasis on PCS seems reasonable. What is telling, however, is Madaris' insistence on the statement that "he had taught several classes at USM as an adjunct since 2002." In preparation for a discussion of this statement, let's examine the Hattiesburg Finance Faculty's teaching loads for this academic year (Fall 2006 – Summer 2007).

Instructor	Fall 2006	Spring 2007	Summer 2007
Clark	FIN 301 FIN 320 FIN 352	FIN 640 FIN 640	None
Haggard	FIN 300 FIN 300	FIN 300 FIN 300	None
Hood	FIN 300 FIN 300	FIN 300 FIN 300	None
Jiao*	None	FIN 350 FIN 472 MBA 570	None
King	BA 200 BA 200 BA 200	BA 200 BA 200 FIN 392	BA 200 BA 200 REI 325
Lindley†	FIN 300 FIN 300 FIN 472	None	None
Madaris‡	FIN 300 MBA 640	FIN 301 FIN 310	ECO 202 FIN 300
Salter	FIN 380 REI 330 REI 432	FIN 300 REI 340 REI 434	None

* Feng Jiao was hired for Spring 2007 only as a substitute for Tom Lindley, who was on medical leave.

† Tom Lindley was on medical leave in Spring 2007 for elective surgery.

‡ Madaris has served as an adjunct at USM during 2002-2007.

Noteworthy is the fact that Madaris taught 2 courses in both the Fall 2006 and Spring 2007 semesters, the same load taught by Stephen Haggard and Matthew Hood during those semesters. In fact, Madaris covered the Master of Business Administration core finance course (MBA 640) in Hattiesburg, the only graduate course in finance taught in Hattiesburg that semester. Additionally, Madaris taught two courses for finance majors (FIN 301 and FIN 310) in Spring 2007. These semesters indicate that Madaris was a key component – rather than a simple adjunct – of the finance faculty during 2006-2007. Now consider Summer 2007. Madaris is teaching the only section of a pure finance course offered this summer. Again, hardly inconsequential.

As Haggard and Hood were to move to nine-hour (3-course) loads in 2007-2008, Madaris might well have been a minor loss, leaving CoB administrators to find a replacement for next summer's offerings. With the departure of Stephen Haggard to Missouri State University, however, Madaris again became critical to offering finance courses at USM. In fact, Madaris would have been guaranteed at least two courses per semester at USM, and sources tell USMNews.net that EFIB chairman George Carter was overheard offering Madaris a full-time instructor position for 2007-2008 and possibly beyond. Mike Madaris was a key part of CoB administrators' plans for finance in the short term. From his own point of view, Mike Madaris might consider himself an inconsequential loss to USM. From USM's point of view, it should be clear that Madaris' departure for WCU was a major loss to the EFIB and the Finance Faculty in general.

Again, this instance highlights the peril of failing to consider appropriate points of view. Madaris' focus on self-interest – understandable given his past associations with USM – led him to label previous USMNews.net reports as factually erroneous. These reports were neither erroneous nor malicious; they were, however, focused on USM and the CoB as are all reports at USMNews.net. While Madaris might consider his own loss at PCS to be more substantive, USMNews.net's focus is not Presbyterian Christian School, its culture, or the comings and goings of its faculty.

What matters to USMNews.net is that Madaris taught the same course load as two other USM Finance Faculty members during 2006-2007 and is the only faculty member teaching finance this summer. Now, Madaris has chosen to leave his association with USM for an association with WCU. On the heels of Haggard's departure, Madaris' decision will cause a noticeable gap in the course offerings at USM.