

Malik back in Pocket

Mysterious Fall 2009 Leave of Absence Concludes

CoB economist-turned-finance prof Farooq Malik has returned to Hattiesburg, fresh off of a mysterious one-semester (Fall 2009) leave of absence. By being away from USM during Fall-09, Malik (pictured below) missed much of the drama surrounding the Martha Saunders administration's decision to eliminate all of the CoB's economics programs and its nine tenured/tenure-track economists.



Malik's heretofore relatively brief stint in USM's b-school has been characterized by administrative favoritism and other benefits not usually extended to most rank-and-file CoB faculty. The archived USMNEWS.net report [Carter Comes Clean on a Few Things](#) pointed out, as did other reports, that Malik was moved from economics, the area in which he is academically trained, to finance by former EFIB chairman George Carter. Doing so provided Malik with about a \$21,000 raise, to \$95,000 per year. Other [reports](#) in the archives [provide](#) details of the politics behind Carter's effort to greatly improve Malik's salary.

The CoB's current dean, Lance Nail, graduated with a PhD in finance from the University of Georgia. Since that time Nail has published in the *Journal of Financial Economics*, one of the top two journals in the field. Sources indicate that Nail cannot be enamored with having Malik in the *finance* unit at USM. Despite these potential feelings, the deal was made before Nail's arrival, during the failed Harold Doty administration of the CoB. Still, the days of coddling Malik, such as those during the 2005-08 period under Carter, Doty and Farhang Niroomand, have little doubt come to an end. As a result, Malik, much like CoB economist Sami Dakhliya, may be increasingly feeling the need to get away from the CoB for long periods of time when possible. In Dakhliya's case, Nail saw to it that the forthcoming leave of absence will be a permanent one, as Dakhliya, Daniel Monchuk and Akbar Marvasti will be leaving the CoB for the CoAL on 1-July-10. That action begs the question: What's next for Malik, their fellow *economist*?