

Nissan At Large

What the Behavior of Some CoB Faculty is Costing MS Taxpayers

The recent report at usmnews.net spotlighting economics professor Edward Nissan's recent 3-week spring break (for a look at the report, see <http://www.usmnews.net/Special%20Report%20124.pdf>) in March of 2007 met with much interest from usmnews.net readers. Sources tell usmnews.net that Nissan is one of the most active CoB faculty when it comes to being away from his USM teaching responsibilities, which are not taxing (see [http://www.usmpride.com/Special_Report_13\[1\].pdf](http://www.usmpride.com/Special_Report_13[1].pdf)).

This report re-examines Nissan's recent 3-week Spring Break 2007, using a presentation format similar to the one in the report linked just above. Using the information from the Nissan 2007 Spring Break report, Nissan's "missing days" are recorded in Table 1 below, which is followed by other pertinent information.

Table 1
Edward Nissan's 3-Week Spring Break of 2007

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>
3/7/07	Wednesday
3/8/07	Thursday
3/9/07	Friday
3/12/07	Monday
3/13/07	Tuesday
3/14/07	Wednesday
3/15/07	Thursday
3/16/07	Friday
3/19/07	Monday
3/20/07	Tuesday
3/21/07	Wednesday
3/22/07	Thursday
3/23/07	Friday
3/26/07	Monday
3/27/07	Tuesday

USM's "official" Spring Break 2007 is blocked in yellow above. Table 1 shows that Nissan was able to put three (3) working days before USM's official spring break began together with seven (7) working days after USM's official spring break period ended for a total of 15 working days' worth of "away from USM time" -- a period amounting to three work-weeks.

According to the USM Provost's calendar, all of Spring Break 2007 is "For Students Only" (see <http://www.usm.edu/provost/calendar.htm>). The relevant portion of that calendar (i.e., March of 2007) is inserted below:

2006 - 2007
Provost Calendar

March 2007

- Thurs – 01 Submit applications for Grand Marshal to the Provost Sabbatical reports due to the Provost for sabbaticals taken Fall 2006
- Mon – Fri 12 - 16 Spring Break For Students Only
- Thurs - 15 Deadline for vitae and portfolios of prospective new faculty members for Summer semester to be sent to the Graduate Council (graduate teaching); also send to the Academic Council (undergraduate teaching) for review if an exception to SACS guidelines is being requested

As the Provost's calendar suggests, all 15 days of Nissan's time away from USM is USM-time. These 15 days account for about 68.2% of the 22 weekdays that fell inside of March of 2007. Given Nissan's monthly compensation package of \$13,693, a figure based on 2005-2006 budget numbers, Nissan's absence covered a 15-day period in March of 2007 during which he received about \$9,339 in MS taxpayers' support. Of course, if we were able to include the salary and fringes that were tacked on to Nissan's total compensation at the beginning of the 2006-2007 academic year (as a result of the 2006 raises) -- the academic year that includes the 3-week spring break period we are examining in this report - - then the level of MS taxpayer support would be even higher.