

The Nitty Gritty

A Look at Some Sans-ECO CoB Budget Savings

After examining the data on salaries, fringes, etc. from the CoB's ECO group, recent speculation that eliminating ECO from the CoB would [save about \\$1 million](#) appears to be right on the mark. That examination also reveals that it will take large actions, like eliminating ECO, for CoB dean Lance Nail to reach the \$2 million-in-cuts mark set for him by USM president Martha Saunders. The CoB is not the CoAL, so attempting to reach \$2 million total via items like student performances, where the CoAL found a sizable chunk of its own \$2 million goal, is just not feasible.

Some estimated cost savings from eliminating ECO from the CoB are shown below in Table 1. These include faculty salaries, and estimates of benefits, travel, and materials expenses that are based on the mountain of data found in the USMNEWS.net library.

Table 1
Some Potential Budget Savings from Eliminating ECO

ECO Faculty	Salary	Benefits	Travel+Materials	Total
Carter, George	\$130,940	\$26,188	\$4,404	\$161,532
Gunther, William	\$124,059	\$24,812	\$4,226	\$153,097
Nissan, Edward	\$109,058	\$21,812	\$3,836	\$134,706
Marvasti, Akbar	\$ 93,892	\$18,778	\$3,441	\$116,111
Klinedinst, Mark	\$ 91,560	\$18,312	\$3,381	\$113,253
Dakhliia, Sami	\$ 84,064	\$16,813	\$3,185	\$104,062
Green, Trellis	\$ 78,583	\$15,717	\$3,043	\$ 97,343
Monchuk, Daniel	\$ 75,686	\$15,137	\$2,967	\$ 93,790
Gevrek, Deniz	\$ 75,000	\$15,000	\$2,950	\$ 92,950
Bonaparte, Yosef	\$ 75,000	\$15,000	\$2,950	\$ 92,950
TOTALS	\$937,842	\$187,569	\$34,383	\$1,159,794

As the Table 1 data above show, elimination of ECO will save about \$0.94 million in the salary column, just barely shy of the amount provided in the report linked above, which itself was based on a simple back-of-the-envelope calculation. The fringe benefits associated with the current group of economists come to about \$0.19 million, for a total of about \$1.13 million. The total savings, as shown above in Table 1, come to about \$1.16 million, though these do not include the savings from eliminating phone services, mailing costs, secretarial support, etc. These would likely generate at least another \$50,000 in additional savings, so the total above is quite representative.

The total above (\$1.16 million) represents only 55%-60% of the total that Nail must provide to Saunders. That said, it will take a big swing, like eliminating ECO, to simply get a good start on reaching the \$2 million goal. And, it is not likely that cutting both tourism management and fashion merchandising, the

two other units that have been rumored to be on the chopping block, would provide anywhere near the additional \$0.85 million that Nail must find. The faculty in these units are both too few and paid too (relatively) little to make up such ground. Not only that, sources tell that USMNEWS.net that, *from a purely financial perspective*, the CoB's TM program is one of its best assets. To be sure, the program's quality leaves much to be desired, as the Thames administration – former USM provost Jay Grimes in particular – pointed out to then-CoB dean Harold Doty in a memo to Doty in Feb-07. That said, however, Nail has TM operating "on the cheap," making use of a mix of instructors (e.g., Evelyn Green), professors of practice (e.g., David Paster) and newly-hired faculty (e.g., Babu George) to provide in-class and online instruction in a way that maximizes the CoB's net return.

As reported earlier by USMNEWS.net, *The Hattiesburg American* and other media outlets, the Saunders administration has until 1-Sept-09 to deliver terminal contract notices to faculty it wishes to cut. Until then, USMNEWS.net will be on the scene uncovering heretofore unreported aspects of the current USM budget crisis.