

Reach Out and Touch a FINRELSer?

Not During the Summer of 2009

The first act by the chair of the CoB's new FINRELS department, Francis Laatsch, was to cut the departmental phone service during the summer of 2009. In a recent communiqué, Laatsch informed his new charges that the FINRELS budget was bone dry, and that eliminating phone service will be only a partial fix to the budget issue facing the FINRELS during its first summer of existence.

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that out-going EFIB chairman George Carter's ill-advised decision to use the EFIB budget to support economist Sami Dakhli's "EFIB Fridays" seminar series put both the FINRELS and the BEDS in a dire budgetary situation during the summer of 2009. While Laatsch is cutting phone service and making TBA budget cuts elsewhere, it is not known how new BEDS chair Donna Davis will be handling budgetary concerns caused by Carter's mismanagement. When details of Davis' decisions are available, and when more is known about the TBA decisions by Laatsch, USMNEWS.net will be offering new reports.

Finally, two additional aspects of Laatsch's communiqué are disheartening. First, Laatsch informed them that he (Laatsch) will be away from the CoB for a period of about 65 days between mid-May and mid-July. This, according to sources, harkens back to the way administrators behaved during the Harold Doty administration (2003-07) of USM's b-school. Second, Laatsch put the issue of teaching a fall 2009 section of REI 340 (real estate law), which he was slated to teach himself, back onto the FINRELS faculty. As Laatsch let FINRELS faculty know, one of the benefits of being a CoB chair is having a 2/2 teaching load, meaning that someone under him is now responsible for carrying his former Tuesday night course. Once again, according to sources, CoB faculty are left to assume a load being vacated by an administrator who carries with him a sense of entitlement and privilege. Like "65 straight days" issue above, this one harkens back to the days of Doty.