

Saved by Departures

Two Retiring ECO Faculty may Remain at USM After 2009-10

It seems now that the surprise resignations of CoB economists Deniz Gevrek and Sami Dakhliya have worked to save two of the five mostly senior CoB economists who were set to retire after 2009-10 so that Gevrek, Dakhliya, Daniel Monchuk and Akbar Marvasti can continue their USM careers. This information comes to the USM family via Ed Kemp's 26-April-2010 [article](#) in *The Hattiesburg American* entitled "USM must add 2 economics professors."

CoAL Wants 4 Economists

CoAL dean Denise von Herrmann told Kemp that her goal is to have four economists on board in the CoAL to staff the B.A. degree in economics. The CoAL dean went on to say she is in talks with two of the five retiring faculty mentioned above, but she did not release names. The talks are intended to gauge the interest of the two faculty in remaining at USM, either full-time or part-time, to carry a portion of the teaching load in CoAL-ECO.



Denise von Herrmann

Kemp points out that seven of the 13 class sections in CoAL-ECO for fall 2010 do not have instructors listed for them, and at full capacity these seven classes would enroll more than 500 students. The insert below contains data available from the USM Registrar (as of 26-Apr-10) that supports Kemp's news story.

Course	Cap	In
ECO 101	192	7
ECO 101H	12	4
ECO 201	60	59
ECO 201	125	34
ECO 201	56	26
ECO 202	105	61
ECO 202	105	41
ECO 336	56	54
ECO 336	56	24
ECO 340	40	13
ECO 450	20	1
ECO 201	35	12
ECO 336	35	17

In the insert above, black font represents USM-H courses, and red font represents USM-GC courses. The rows shaded yellow are the course sections that are uncovered as of 26-Apr-10. As the table indicates, USM students are showing very little interest in enrolling in the ECO 101 sections. Also, ECO 450 is barely drawing interest. One would think that maybe only one additional economist is needed.

Was von Herrmann being Disingenuous?

At the conclusion of Kemp's article, there are some intriguing comments from von Herrmann. There she states that none of the ECO courses included in the insert above would be eliminated. She also claims that CoB faculty would not be considered to teach these courses because of a requirement that instructors of ECO have at least 18 graduate hours of coursework in the field. Here she implies that there are no such faculty currently in the CoB. What she misses is the fact that at least three CoB faculty have PhDs *in economics*, including Farooq Malik from finance and James Magruder in decision sciences.

Some are wondering just what von Herrmann *really* knows about faculty credentials in the CoB. The quotes she delivered to Kemp suggest she may know more than she is letting on, perhaps to strengthen a case for retaining Mark Klinedinst, who reports say is a CoAL faculty favorite. When asked by Kemp if the CoB has people who can cover the courses, von Herrmann states, "Unless there is someone who has 18 graduate hours in economics, and I don't think there is - **at least not to my knowledge** - then the answer is no." Sources tell USMNEWS.net that the highlighted piece of von Herrmann's quotes seems to be a sort of "doth protest too much" type of statement. Here's another interesting twist to the story – **there are two PhDs in ECO in von Herrmann's CoAL right now**. These are Shahdad Naghshpour and Edward Sayre.

Dakhliia to THA Readers: CoAL Economics Program will Likely Fail

One of the two surprise resignations in ECO came from associate professor Sami Dakhliia, who will be joining a French university for 2010-11. Dakhliia told Kemp that, in his view, there is "insufficient willingness within the USM administration to create a thriving or even feasible economics program." Dakhliia was even so bold as to predict that the program would likely fail. In providing what appears to be one of the reasons he resigned, Dakhliia told Kemp: "Asking three faculty to do the work of 12 is to program a degree for failure." These are the kinds of comments that [Elimination without Representation](#) expected more of from the CoB's economists. Long-time readers of USMNEWS.net will recall that George Carter and Mark Klinedinst accused the USM administration of a "subterfuge" via their 2009 interview with *Inside Higher Ed*.

Klinedinst's Portait

There is no apparent reason for Kemp's use of a file photo of CoB economics professor Mark Klinedinst, at least for this report. That file photo, which appears to be a new one, is inserted below.



Mark Klinedinst

Reporters invite readers to submit to USMNEWS.net any ideas they may have as to why his picture accompanied Kemp's article. The early take on it is that Klinedinst is one of the two winners of the ECO positions in the CoAL. One reader suggests that it does appear in the photo above as if Klinedinst just ate/swallowed a canary.