

Special Report

Don't Like Your Teaching Schedule? Change It!

An Investigative Series on the Use of the CoB's Budget

Sources tell usmnews.net that associate professor of finance (and Director of the Center for Financial Services) John Clark has, acting independently, changed his spring 2007 teaching schedule. Clark's assigned spring 2007 teaching schedule reflected a two-course load (with only one prep), taught on two days each week. As other reports at usmnews.net point out, Clark's teaching load is reduced from the usual 3-course load of research active faculty to his current two course load on the basis of Clark's management of the CFS.

A recent check of SOAR indicates that Clark (see below) was assigned a two-course, two-day/week, and one-prep load for the spring of 2007 by EFIB Chair George Carter.



John Clark



Clark in the CFS

Our check of the SOAR schedule guide for USM faculty turned up the following assigned schedule for Clark:

Table 1
John Clark's Assigned Teaching Schedule, Spring '07 (SOAR)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Times</u>
FIN 652 Problems in Investments	TuTh	2:25pm-3:40pm
FIN 652 Problems in Investments	Tu	6:30pm-9:15pm

Our investigators also examined EFIB Chair Carter's Spring 2007 Teaching Loads Excel spreadsheet for the EFIB, which we obtained in October as a result of a series of investigative reports on faculty grievances in the CoB. Carter's Excel sheet confirms the assigned schedule that is available on SOAR. Table 2 below contains a copy of the relevant portion of Carter's Excel-based spring 2007 teaching assignments sheet for EFIB faculty:

Table 2
John Clark's Assigned Schedule, Spring '07 (Carter Excel)

3	Prob in Investments	2:25pm-3:40pm	TR	Clark J	
3	Prob in Investments	6:30pm-9:15pm	T	Clark J	IVN-Jackson Cty
	Prob in Investments	6:30pm-9:15pm	T	Clark J	IVN-Stennis
3	Course Release - Academically Qualified				
3	Course Release - Center Director				
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Well, according to sources, what you see above is not the schedule that Clark applies to himself. The schedule Clark holds himself to is presented in Table 3 below (places where changes were made by Clark are highlighted in yellow):

Table 3
Teaching Schedule Clark Actually Follows, Spring '07

Course	Days	Times
FIN 652 Problems in Investments	Tu	1:00pm-3:40pm
FIN 652 Problems in Investments	Tu	6:30pm-9:15pm

As you can see, Clark took the initiative to eliminate the Thursday, 2:25pm-3:40pm, portion of his 3-hour FIN 652 course that is scheduled (SOAR; Carter) to meet on **Tuesday and** Thursday of each week, from 2:25pm-3:40pm. The 75-minute block of time that was removed by Clark from Thursday afternoon was tacked on to the Tuesday afternoon portion of his TuTh FIN 652 course. As a result, that particular FIN 652 course now meets on **Tuesdays only**, and from **1:00pm**-3:40pm. This change provides Clark with the luxury of having a string of non-teaching days – Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday – that is 6 days long. What Clark does with this string may be worth following in future reports.

As usmnews.net readers are aware, a number of CoB faculty have been assigned punitive teaching schedules for 2006-07. Even given his assigned schedule, Clark is obviously not one of those faculty. Only time will tell how those in the punitive schedule category will react to this latest news. In any event, this appears to be an example of what one gets from the CoB's "jungle rules" ethos (as described in a recent *31st & Pearl* column). This also appears to be another example of how affiliations with the CoB's Centers seem to represent little more than political favors from CoB Dean Harold Doty.