

Special Report

A “Big Easy” Schedule in the EFIB

An Investigation into Course Scheduling in the CoB

This Special Report examines the spring 2007 teaching schedule of John Lambert, a visiting assistant professor of international business at USM. The table below shows Lambert’s spring 2007 schedule:

LAMBERT

BA	301	H004	3	Mgr. Stat. I	9:30am-10:45am	TR
ECO	336	H004	3	Survey Int Econ	2:25pm-3:40pm	TR
IB	472	H001	3	International Busn	1:00pm-2:15pm	TR
			3	Course Release - Academically Qualified		
			12			

Lambert’s spring 2007 runs from 9:30am until 3:40pm on *only* Tuesdays and Thursdays. This schedule was put together by EFIB Chair George Carter to make it easier for Lambert to maintain a home base/residence in New Orleans, LA. A similar schedule was developed by Carter for Lambert before the fall 2006 semester, Lambert’s first semester at USM.

A previous report at usmpride.com pointed out that CoB Dean Harold Doty introduced Lambert to CoB faculty at the fall 2006 semester kickoff meeting by stating that Lambert would be driving up from New Orleans on two days each week (Tuesday/Thursday) to teach courses for the CoB. Thus, it is not news to the CoB faculty that Lambert was being given preferential treatment so that he could maintain residence in another state (i.e., Louisiana). Another report at usmpride.com shows that economics professor William Gunther is also being given preferential scheduling treatment so that Gunther can live/maintain residence in Alabama, near the Alabama-Florida border.

Gunther-Lambert Commonalities

Unlike Gunther, Lambert showed up to the EFIB’s original faculty governance meeting at the beginning of fall semester of 2006. However, Lambert did not accept any ballots that day, deferring to permanent faculty to choose the governance option. Sources tell usmpride.com that on the morning of 19 September 2006, “Black Tuesday” in the CoB, Lambert was visited in his office by George Carter. The two of them exited Lambert’s office for a brief period of private consultation. Later that day, Lambert accepted a ballot and participated in the EFIB’s re-vote. It’s hard to imagine why a visiting professor who opted out of an uncontroversial faculty vote (i.e., the original EFIB governance vote) would choose to participate about a week later in what is arguably the most controversial departmental vote in the CoB over the past several years, if not decades.

Surely Carter's conversation with Lambert was about more than simple administrative matters. Similarly, an earlier report at usmpride.com indicates that Gunther was overheard on the morning of 19 September 2006 telling non-EFIB CoB faculty that the EFIB would be taking a re-vote on its governance options. Again, it seems clear that Gunther was privy to that day's coming events beforehand. Unlike the original meeting on governance, Gunther showed up on 19 September and cast ballots.

By providing schedules to Gunther and Lambert that facilitate the maintenance of residences in Alabama and Louisiana, respectively, Carter is put in the position of having to place undue constraints/burden on the EFIB scheduling process. This is, however, the position Carter likely desires, given his penchant for using the scheduling process as a method to punish those who disagree with his actions. This position is supported by a number of reports that are now available at usmpride.com.