

## *Special Report*

### **A New Breed: The CoB's Clinical Teaching Professorship An Investigative Series on the Use of the CoB for Personal Gain**

Recent reports at usmnews.net have spotlighted former CoB economics professor Charles Sawyer's final year in the CoB (2006-07). Sawyer, now a visiting professor of economics at the University of Arkansas, taught two overload courses as a professor in USM's College of Business during the 2006-07 academic year. It has been reported that Sawyer earned "more than \$107,000" for the 2006-07 academic year, and a recent report in this series entitled "Sweet November" indicated that Sawyer was paid (1) \$1,500 in Nov-06 for overload teaching, and (2) \$2,300 in Nov-06 through a BAC Professorship.<sup>1</sup>

Recently, usmnews.net was able to examine a document indicating how much Sawyer earned in the CoB during the 2006-07 academic year. That information is presented below in table form, much the same way it appeared to usmnews.net reporters upon examination:

<b>Month-Year</b>	<b>Sawyer's Pay</b>
Sept-2006	\$11,807.67
Oct-2006	\$11,807.67
Nov-2006	\$14,107.67
Dec-2006	\$11,807.67
Jan-2007	\$11,807.67
Feb-2007	\$11,807.67
Mar-2007	\$11,807.67
Apr-2007	\$11,807.67
May-2007	\$10,307.67

The "Sweet November" report indicated that Sawyer's contracted salary (Budget Book salary) for the 9-month academic year 2006-07 is \$92,769. This total translates into a monthly rate of (gross) pay of \$10,307.67. As the table above shows, Sawyer was paid more than this amount at the end of each of the first eight (of the nine) months of 2006-07. In each of the four months, Sep-2006 through Dec-2006, Sawyer received his regular pay of \$10,307.67 **plus** \$1,500 for teaching a third course, which was classified by EFIB Chair George Carter as an overload course. Thus, Sawyer's four payments of \$1,500 total an overload agreement of \$6,000 for fall 2006. The same result is obtained by examining the first four (of the five) payments made to Sawyer during spring 2007. In this case Sawyer was paid \$6,000 for teaching a fourth course, also classified by Carter as an overload course.<sup>2</sup>

We have invited a *31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl* contributor to offer commentary on this story (series). This commentary is found below.

<sup>1</sup> For a complete recap of this story to date, see ["Sawyer's Pay Exceeds Budget Line by 15%"](#), ["Sawyer's Retirement Package"](#), ["Charles in Charge"](#) and ["Sweet November"](#).

<sup>2</sup> The data above show that Sawyer was paid a total of \$107,069.03 during the 2006-07 academic year.

## Commentary from 31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl Columnist

Two overload courses, \$12,000. It's good to be Charles Sawyer. The *Special Report* entitled "Sawyer's Retirement Package" shows just how much the overload pay Sawyer received during 2006-07 boosted his (Sawyer's) future PERS benefits. The deal was so good that others in Greene Hall who are in their so-called PERS window are talking . . . complaining . . . about it now. Of course, some in the CoB are always going to be treated more fairly than others, and this is just an example of that.

One interesting aspect of this story that has been touched upon before, but not recently, is the implicit change in Sawyer's job description that Carter's overload teaching deal(s) with Sawyer resulted in – a point delved into more in the CoBscam series.<sup>3</sup> If we are to believe the words of USM's central administrators and others, then USM (and the CoB) is a research institution, not a liberal arts university. And, to that end Sawyer is paid \$92,769 per (9-month) year to teach and *conduct research*. However, in assigning overloads to Sawyer, Carter essentially converted Sawyer's line into a *Clinical Teaching Professorship*, a move that resulted in Sawyer being paid about 14,000 per year more than Mississippi taxpayers had authorized Sawyer to be paid as a *research-oriented faculty*.<sup>4</sup> Put differently, Mississippi taxpayers authorized the payment of \$92,769 to Sawyer to teach 5-6 courses over the two semesters in 2006-07 – a teaching load commensurate with research responsibilities. Despite this, Carter overturned the decision and assigned Sawyer seven courses, and all for a total payment of about \$107,000.<sup>5</sup> The benefits to Sawyer of Carter's change of plans -- primarily monetary -- are obvious. We're not sure what Mississippi's taxpayers got from the deal.

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<sup>3</sup> See the Archives at [www.usmnews.net](http://www.usmnews.net) for reports in the CoBscam series.

<sup>4</sup> The CoBscam series has also shown that Carter, as EFIB chairman, has assigned overload teaching to himself. The \$14,000 encompasses the BAC Professorship, which is supposed to be awarded to support research projects.

<sup>5</sup> A report in the CoBscam series points out that Mississippi's junior and community colleges exist to fulfill a teaching responsibility, while four-year institutions like MSU and USM serve the public through research (in addition to other things, including teaching). In this case, however, Carter essentially provided Sawyer with a JUCO job description, but at the significantly greater four-year research institution level of remuneration.