

## Special Report

# Sawyer's Retirement Package

## An Investigative Series on the Use of the CoB for Personal Gain

The recent **Breaking News** story entitled "Sawyer's Pay Exceeds Budget Line by 15%" (see below) has piqued the interest of many usmnews.net readers. Reporters

**Breaking News**

**Sawyer's Pay Exceeds Budget Line by 15%**

HATTIESBURG – Word is spreading around the CoB that former economics professor Charles Sawyer was paid "more than \$107,000" during the 2006-07 academic year, a figure that does not include any payment for summer teaching. Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that, according to the story, Sawyer's USM salary is supposed to be about \$92,500, yet he earned "more than \$107,000" during this past academic year, his last before retiring from USM's College of Business.

Although our news offices are not in possession of any documentation, nor are any of our sources, these figures reportedly come from official USM records. The salary Sawyer is reported to have earned turns out to be about 15% below what he was actually paid throughout 2006-07, and sources tell us that more than 80% of the discrepancy comes from monies that Sawyer was paid to teach overload courses in the fall of 2006 and spring of 2007.

Readers of USMNEWS.NET will recall that economics professor Franklin Mixon was denied overload pay by EFIB Chair George Carter during the fall of 2006, when Mixon taught an MBA course vacated by the CoB's former Scholar-in-Residence Ray Canterbury. Also, the revelation that Sawyer was paid well over \$10,000 for overload teaching supports our October 2006 report in the "CoBScam?" series entitled "A Look at Questionable Teaching Schedules in the College of Business." That report is available in our archives section, or by clicking [here](#). The "CoBScam?" report indicates that Sawyer was credited with teaching a section of ECO 336 as an overload, even though the non-overload portion of his fall 2006 schedule consisted of only two sections of ECO 201. According to sourced statements, Sawyer was paid \$6,000 for teaching this fall 2006 section of ECO 336, and another \$6,000 for teaching an overload course during the spring of 2007.

Reporters at USMNEWS.NET hope to obtain paperwork relating to this story from sources. At that point, expect further reports to be published on this and related items.

are continuing to delve into this story, and this report examines the impact that Sawyer's overload teaching will have on his PERS retirement benefits. Table 1 below contains two main columns, one showing the "budgeted amount" for Sawyer's salary line over the past four years, and the other re-figuring these amounts with the new information about Sawyer's overload pay during the 2006-07 academic year.

**Table 1**  
**Sawyer's PERS Retirement Base**

Academic Year	Budgeted Salary	Salary Paid
2003-04	\$86,922	\$ 86,922
2004-05	\$86,922	\$ 86,922
2005-06	\$86,922	\$ 86,922
2006-07	<u>\$92,671</u>	<u>\$107,100</u>
	total	\$367,866
	[avg.]	[\$88,359]

The “Budgeted Salary” figures used in Table 1 can be found at [www.usmnews.net](http://www.usmnews.net) (see the Archives). The \$107,100 “Salary Paid” figure for 2006-07 was arrived at using the “more than \$107,000” quote from the **Breaking News** story above.

As Table 1 points out, assuming that Sawyer was paid as budgeted from 2003-04 through 2005-06, he (Sawyer) was able to convert one year of overload teaching (i.e., 2006-07) into about a \$3,000 increase in his average pay over his last 4 years in USM’s CoB.<sup>1</sup> Sawyer’s average salary will form the base for computing his PERS (defined) retirement benefits, which he will begin receiving shortly.

Again, this story is related to a report in the CoBscam? series that discusses the use of overload teaching (by Sawyer and EFIB Chair George Carter) to boost salaries (see [http://www.usmnews.net/CoBscam\\_2.pdf](http://www.usmnews.net/CoBscam_2.pdf)). Sources also tell usmnews.net that this so-called *Clinical Teaching Professors plan* was used by Sawyer before the 2006-07 academic year – and in years that affect the calculations done in this report (i.e., in 2003-04 through 2005-06). So, look for more reports on this in the near future.

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<sup>1</sup> The difference in the two averages shown in brackets above is actually \$3,608, but sources indicate that some of that is due to the BAC Professorship that Sawyer received during 2006-07.