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Special Report

Will USM Earn any Money from Carter's Fall '07 Overload? An Investigative Series on the Use of the CoB for Personal Gain

A number of reports here at usmnews.net have revealed that EFIB chair George Carter has been providing teaching overloads to various EFIB faculty as a way of boosting their annual pay and retirement benefits. That "program" has been referred to as Carter's *Clinical Teaching Professorships Program*, and it represents what appears to be the unauthorized (at least at levels above CoB Dean) use by Carter of faculty resources (time, etc.) in teaching that were originally allocated instead to perform research and service functions. Of course, one of the primary beneficiaries of this clinical teaching professorship program is Carter himself, and his use of it is particularly egregious given that his employment as a CoB administrator entitles him to a 6-hour base teaching load.



George Carter



Alvin Williams

To add insult to the injury to Mississippi taxpayers, usmnews.net has now learned that Carter's fall 2007 clinical teaching professorship course – a 1.5 hour section of BA 303 – may not even have generated enough tuition revenue to cover the cost of having Carter teach the course in an overload capacity. According to records received by reporters at usmnews.net, Carter's overload section of BA 303, which was taught on an 8W1 basis during fall semester of 2007, generated only about \$7,776 in tuition revenues.¹ Not only will Interim CoB Dean Alvin Williams have to dispense a separate salary payment to Carter for teaching the overload, Williams will have to provide funding to cover the fringe benefits (e.g., PERS contributions, OASDI, etc.) associated with Carter's overload teaching. These monies will come from the CoB's general budget, and ultimately from Mississippi taxpayers, and they do not include lost productivity in other areas originally assigned to Carter. Given the overload payments made to other EFIB faculty in the recent past, it's difficult to see what USM is getting out of Carter's clinical teaching professorship program.

¹ This figure was arrived at using the per-hour student tuition rate of \$192 reported in the 2007-08 *USM Undergraduate Bulletin*.

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Further investigation into this story reveals that EFIB professor Edward Nissan was assigned 4 sections of BA 303 during the fall of 2007. Two of these were taught on an 8W1 basis, while the remaining two are being taught on an 8W2 basis. Based on the tuition rate of \$192 per hour, Nissan's 4 sections of BA 303 are generating (approximate) tuition revenues of just \$4,320, \$8,064, \$4,608, and \$8,640, respectively. These figures sum to just \$25,632, and represent two-thirds of Nissan's fall 2007 teaching load.



Edward Nissan

Nissan's annual salary alone comes to \$109,058, and his salary+ fringe benefits easily surpass the \$125,000 mark. Half of each of these are \$54,529 and \$62,500, respectively. So, 67% of Nissan's fall 2007 teaching load is accounting for tuition revenues that cover only 47% of his fall 2007 salary, or only 41% (conservatively) of his salary + benefits. As such, Carter's so-called overload section of BA 303 could have, and should have, been folded into the four sections of BA 303 that Nissan was already teaching during fall 2007. Doing so would have better justified Nissan's employment with USM and it would have avoided the additional expenses to USM of employing Carter in an overload capacity.