

The Marvasti Hole

Loss of CoAL-ECOer Leaves Uncovered Courses for Fall 2010

The recent news that former CoB economist Akbar Marvasti will be departing USM before the 2010-11 academic year led USMNEWS.net staff to examine the fall 2010 USM teaching schedule. In doing so on 23-July-2010, a large hole in CoAL-ECO was found regarding Marvasti's fall 2010 teaching load. Relevant information from that search is presented below in Table 1.

Table 1 – Marvasti's Fall 2010 Teaching Load

Course	Cap	Enrollment
ECO 201	125	77
ECO 336	57	57
ECO 336	56	44

As Table 1 indicates, Marvasti was set for three courses/two preps for fall 2010. This consists of two sections of ECO 336 and one section of ECO 201. At the time of this report, he also was set to instruct 178 students, with the potential for nearly 250. How will CoAL dean Denise von Herrmann respond to this situation? Only time will tell. The Jan-2010 loss of Deniz Gevrek put a minor strain on ECO instruction. The May-2010 loss of Sami Dakhli almost broke the unit. It wasn't until former CoB economist Trellis Green was pulled from retirement, and the CoAL's Edward Sayre was pulled off of the college's international development/relations teaching line that the human resources situation in CoAL-ECO was stabilized somewhat.

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that former CoB economics faculty George Carter and Mark Klinedinst have already declined the CoAL's previous offers to teach in that college. It is unlikely that William Gunther, another former CoB ECOer, would consider disrupting his retirement to again teach in Hattiesburg. That leaves Edward Nissan, who is now planning to locate in the Liberal Arts Building in order to assist the IDV graduate students. Sources indicate, though, that Nissan is not qualified to cover Marvasti's three ECO courses. Of course, it is possible that von Herrmann will shift Shahdad Naghshpour, who holds a PhD in economics, into CoAL-ECO instruction. Beyond that, little to no other option exists.

This situation will likely lead to some political games in the CoAL. Stay tuned for more on this story in the near future.