

The X Annual Sloth Games

How ECO's Mark Klinedinst Tried to Bring Down the Nail Administration

CoB economics professor Mark Klinedinst is not actually in the building (Greene Hall) much. When he is around, however, he usually travels throughout Greene Hall with a satchel that appears to be loaded with books and other academic materials. Some have speculated that, with his lack of productivity, the satchel is full of bricks, or some other lifeless and dense material. You see, Klinedinst has [not](#) published an indexed journal article since 1998. His teaching – the main text in Klinedinst's economic development class has historically been [Kaffir Boy](#) – is suspect, at best. Finally, as [Ghastly Service Ghosts](#) points out, Klinedinst does college and [university](#) service only when he feels like it, and, in the words of one source, “. . . that ain't often.”

With the release of the [6-Dec-08](#) and [9-Feb-09](#) minutes of the Academic Council, the table showing Klinedinst's service dereliction that is contained in [Ghastly Service Ghosts](#) can be updated. This is done (as Table 1) in the space below:

Table 1
2008-09 Academic Council Attendance

Meeting Date	CoB Member	Absent	Present	Proxy
8-Sept-08	Carr, Jon		•	
	Henderson, Jim	•		Pate, Gwen
	Klinedinst, Mark		•	
6-Oct-08	Carr, Jon	•		
	Henderson, Jim	•		Pate, Gwen
	Klinedinst, Mark	•		
3-Nov-08	Carr, Jon		•	
	Henderson, Jim	•		Pate, Gwen
	Klinedinst, Mark	•		
6-Dec-08	Carr, Jon		•	
	Henderson, Jim	•		Pate, Gwen
	Klinedinst, Mark		•	
9-Feb-09	Klinedinst, Mark	•		Conville, R.

As the updated table above indicates, Klinedinst showed up to the 6-Dec-08 AC meeting, only his second of fall 2008, yet he rejoined his normal habit of missing important University committee meetings on 9-Feb-09, when he, as the CoB's lone member of the AC by then, decided not to attend that month's (Feb-09) meeting.¹ As a result of Klinedinst's 9-Feb-09

¹ Since the original publication of [Ghastly Service Ghosts](#) a few weeks ago, USMNEWS.net reporters learned that ACC's Jim Henderson's absences were due to a course scheduling conflict. As a result, he used a proxy throughout fall 2008. Why that proxy was a CoB administrator (i.e., UG Services Assistant Dean Gwen Pate), and not a rank-and-file faculty, remains an important question. Henderson's disappearance from the AC during spring 2009 resulted from his retirement. Similarly,

decision to be derelict, his AC attendance rate remains a disturbingly low 40%. Meanwhile, Jon Carr attended 75% of the meetings he was responsible for attending during fall 2008, even though he was departing for Texas Christian University in late Dec-08, a fact suggesting that many would have understood his decision to be absent, had he made that decision on each occasion.

The remaining question in Klinedinst's case, particularly given his 9-Feb-09 dereliction of AC service duty, is why he chose to attend the 6-Dec-08 meeting *at all*. The semester was ending, Klinedinst had already missed all but the first AC meeting of fall 2008 by then, he was going to miss the first spring 2009 AC meeting (it just hadn't happened yet), and the holidays were being ushered in. The answer to that question is revealed by the AC's meeting minutes for 6-Dec-08, which are available to USMNEWS.net readers via the link above. According to these minutes, the AC discussed CoB dean Lance Nail's proposed reorganization of the CoB, which had been made public on 31-Oct-08, or about 4 weeks prior. That discussion is summarized with the following AC minutes entry:

Dr. Walker presented the College of Business' request to reorganize the college from four academic departments to six departments. Dr. Haynes moved and Dr. Marchman seconded a motion to reject the reorganization of the College of Business. The question was raised regarding whether or not colleges had to submit plans for reorganization to Academic Council for approval. The Parliamentarian researched this issue during the discussion through Academic Council documents and informed the Council that there was nothing in Academic Council documents or policies that clearly gave Academic Council any authority related to this issue, nor was there anything in the Academic Council documentation that required colleges to submit plans for reorganization to Academic Council for approval. While it was determined Academic Council has not governing authority over this issue, a vote was taken not to endorse the proposal.

As the insert above indicates, the USM Academic Council appears to have engaged in a not-so-flattering discussion of Nail's reorganization plan. This supports earlier sourced reports stating that Klinedinst led somewhat of an anti-Nail insurrection at the 6-Dec-08 AC meeting. According to the AC minutes, a motion was made and seconded to "reject the reorganization of the College of Business." This was followed by a question about the AC's authority over colleges' (potential) plans for reorganization. It was determined by the AC Parliamentarian that the AC lacked any authority to rule on matters of reorganization, at which point a rational mind would predict that the issue was dropped by the AC. This was not to be, thanks largely to Klinedinst's drive to bring down the Nail administration of the CoB. As the insert above concludes, "[w]hile it was determined Academic Council has not [sic] governing authority over this issue, a vote was taken not to endorse the proposal." This statement (above) was followed in the 6-Dec-08 minutes with the ultimate action by the AC:

College of Business

Not Approved: Reorganization of the College of Business from four academic departments to six departments.

Jon Carr's spring 2009 disappearance resulted from his departure from USM. Carr is now affiliated with Texas Christian University.

One would normally assume that a faculty who hasn't published an indexed journal article in 11 years, who is a suspect teacher (at best), and who routinely scoffs at college and university service duties would not be so "out front" in opposition to CoB dean Lance Nail on matters of reorganization, etc. In the case of ECO's Mark Klinedinst, *normal assumptions* do not apply. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that this is simply a case where Klinedinst and his friends in ECO are fighting to protect the trough they've been feeding from for years. In this particular instance, Klinedinst and ECO's figureheads (George Carter, Farhang Niroomand, etc.) simply took advantage of Klinedinst's plum committee assignment to attempt to build a barrier between Nail and Nail's goal of reorganization of the CoB. That plan failed miserably, as indicated by the fact that Nail's reorganization now sits before the Mississippi College Board, and with the finance secretary's stamp of approval. All that remains to be written of this story is what fallout Klinedinst et al. will be facing in the next academic year (2009-10), and in the years that follow.