

The BBER Sinecure?

An Examination of Director Bill Gunther's Teaching Schedule

This report continues USMPRIDE.COM's investigation into the EFIB's teaching schedules. The table below shows Bureau of Business and Economic Research Director Bill Gunther's teaching schedule for the spring of 2007:

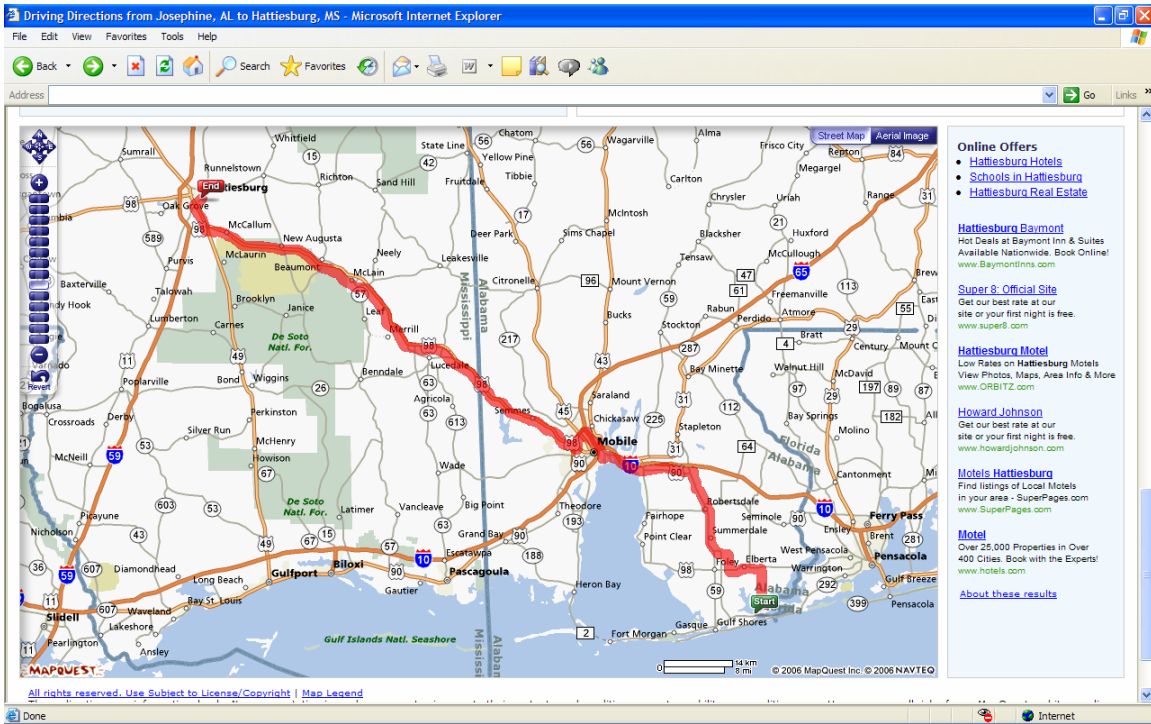
GUNTHER

ECO	202	H004	3	Prin Of Eco II	11:00am-12:15pm	TR
ECO	202	H005	3	Prin Of Eco II	6:30pm-9:15pm	M
			3	Course Release - Professionally Qualified		
			3	Course Release - Center Director		
			12			

Gunther is given two 3-hour release credits against a 12-hour teaching load. The first is to recognize Gunther's "Professionally Qualified" status, while the second recognizes that Gunther is a "Center Director" (i.e., the BBER Director). Given these two credits, Gunther maintains a 6-hour teaching load for the spring of 2007. All six hours include Prin of Eco II. These two courses are taught on Tuesday/Thursday around noon and Monday evenings.

A number of reports at USMPRIDE.COM have indicated that Gunther does next to nothing with regard to the Bureau of Business and Economic Research. The BBER is literally an empty shell - a three-office suite without any staff or other human presence. On rare occasions Gunther pins a few economic statistics (taken from Washington, D.C.) to a bulletin board outside of the BBER suite.

Reports available at USMPRIDE.COM have also shown that Gunther maintains a permanent residence in the Gold Coast region of Alabama. His home in Josephine, AL, is 3.5 to 4 hours driving time from Hattiesburg (USM). The screen below captures the trek between Hattiesburg and Josephine - a one-way journey that Gunther makes twice per week during the semester. As the map below indicates, Gunther's home is closer to Florida than it is to Mississippi, thus facilitating his recent summer 2004 teaching job with the University of West Florida.



Next, our investigators examined Gunther's fall 2006 teaching schedule, which is pasted below:

ECO	202	H003	3	Prin Of Eco II	11:00am-12:15pm	TR	
MBA	520	H001	3	Managers Eco Analys	6:30pm-9:15pm	M	
MBA	520	XG80	3	Managers			On-Line
			3	Course Release - Professionally Qualified			
			3	Course Release - Center Director			
			12				

Again, Gunther received two 3-hour course release credits against a 12-hour teaching load, thus generating a 6-hour load. However, in the fall of 2006, Gunther taught an out-of-load graduate course (Eco Analys Managers), presumably for extra compensation (possibly \$8,000 to \$10,000, or more). That course, however, was structured as an online course. In doing so, EFIB Chair George Carter created an overload situation for Gunther that could be dealt with from his Gold Coast home in Josephine, thus preserving Gunther's cushy teaching schedule.

The Real Deal?

In creating the BBER, CoB Dean Doty appears to have created an organization to place his spouse, Susan Doty, in charge of economics education delivery around

parts of the State of Mississippi. As other reports at USMPRIDE.COM have pointed out, Dean Doty gets a new “accomplishment line” for his vitae by way of the “new” BBER. It also appears that the arrangement may be working to keep within the House of Doty any financial gain that comes from the economics education delivery, given that the BBER economics education plan was launched before USM Provost Jay Grimes and Economic Development Chair Ken Malone could institute their own statewide delivery system for economics education.

Gunther’s stake in the BBER comes through comes from receipt of the 3-hour course release for “serving” as the BBER’s PhD economist and Director. To help things along, EFIB Chair Carter also appears to be providing Gunther with a teaching schedule that will facilitate Gunther’s movements between Hattiesburg and Josephine, AL. In other words, Carter’s teaching assignments appear to be facilitating for the Gunthers 3-day weekends near the beach on the AL-FL line.