

***usmpride.com News* DEVELOPING STORY**

September 17, 2006

HATTIESBURG --- New details are emerging on the story that usmpride.com broke yesterday concerning the sudden and quiet departure of newly hired Scholar-in-Residence Ray Canterbury. Sources today confirmed that George Carter, the Chair of EFIB and the CoB administrator who brought Canterbury to USM, informed Professor Frank Mixon at about noon on Wednesday, September 13, 2006, that he (Mixon) was to take over Canterbury's ECO 672 course on Tuesday, September 19, 2006, the fourth class meeting of the semester. As it is being reported to us, Carter then departed from his office for the remainder of the afternoon, thus adding Wednesday afternoon to a planned 4-day weekend wedding trip that was to take place from September 14-17, 2006.

Sources indicate that Mixon has made repeated attempts to have Carter, Niroomand, and/or Doty provide him with the course materials and the plans that Professor Canterbury had made and completed thus far. Reports are that Lola Ingram provided Mixon with Canterbury's syllabus at about noon on Wednesday (9/13/2006), but repeated attempts by Mixon to communicate with Carter, Niroomand and Doty have not produced anything, even though Mixon is about to convene his first meeting of a course that is out of his area of expertise and that he has never taught.

Our investigators have confirmed that, at Mixon's request, Carter placed a letter in Mixon's office mailbox that reiterated Carter's verbal instruction to him (Mixon) to complete Canterbury's teaching assignment. That letter arrived about six hours after Mixon requested it. Sources indicate that the last verbal exchange between Carter and Mixon occurred on Wednesday (9/13/2006) at about noon.

We have also confirmed that Carter responded to two letters that Mixon sent on Thursday and Friday (9/14/2006 and 9/15/2006) --- letters that requested (from Carter) a text and teaching materials --- with a short statement made through Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand. That statement told Mixon that (paraphrasing) “. . . the assignment stands . . . you are to complete the course . . .” Carter's brief response made no mention of the course text, Canterbury's assigned materials, or other items mentioned in Mixon's two written responses.

A tip from a usmpride.com reader instructs us to obtain copies of Mixon's prior teaching assignments under George Carter's chairmanship, dating back to the mid-1990s. We have requested that information from Mixon and are awaiting his response.

Another tipster suggested that we look into the role that new EFIB hire Akbar Marvasti played in bringing Canterbury to campus. We intend to do so. Please stay tuned as this story continues to unfold.

September 16, 2006

HATTIESBURG --- It is being reported to usmpride.com that Ray Canterbury, the CoB's new "Scholar-in-Residence," is no longer affiliated with USM. CoB administrators are saying that Canterbury has an unnamed illness that has prevented him from serving in the CoB during the 2006-07 academic year.

As reported earlier at usmpride.com, Canterbury was brought to USM by EFIB Chair George Carter just days before the beginning of Fall semester 2006. Sources are now telling usmpride.com that Carter's decision to hire Canterbury in the Scholar-in-Residence capacity was done without consultation from EFIB faculty, and that EFIB faculty were as surprised as faculty in other CoB departments to receive the e-mail from CoB Dean Harold Doty announcing the hiring of Canterbury. Investigators at usmpride.com also confirm that Canterbury's employment line is not presented in the newly printed 2006-07 USM Budget.

It was also reported earlier at usmpride.com that EFIB recently selected, by a vote of 7-5, a three-faculty governance committee to handle personnel issues for the department. However, yesterday sources confirmed that George Carter assigned Canterbury's sole teaching responsibility – ECO 672, International Economics – to Professor Frank Mixon without consulting others on that committee.

Reporters at usmpride.com have confirmed that Mixon is not an international economist. Our staff has also confirmed that a number of other CoB economists are specialists in international economics. These include Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand, who studied under famed international economist Mordechai Kreinin at Michigan State University (Niroomand recently served as host to Kreinin for a Boardman Series lecture at USM). Investigators indicate that Niroomand, who has presented numerous papers on international economics at the Central Bank of Iran, and who currently serves as Editor of the *Journal of Current Research in Global Business*, is not teaching any courses in the Fall of 2006. Another qualified faculty is Charles Sawyer, author of *International Economics 2e* by Prentice Hall. Sawyer has reportedly taught ECO 672 on numerous occasions in the past.

Sources indicate that EFIB Chair George Carter has been unavailable for communication with the other members of the EFIB governance committee. Carter took Wednesday afternoon off and left town on personal business (what is being reported as a social engagement) over the Thursday-Friday, September 14-15, 2006, period. Two sources have independently confirmed that Carter's Friday morning classes did not meet.