

***usmnews.net Reporter* DEVELOPING STORY**

May 1, 2007

HATTIESBURG --- Copies of Franklin Mixon's formal misconduct complaint against EFIB Chair George Carter are spreading like kudzu. Copies have been received by *usmnews.net Reporter*, and the main page at usmnews.net will soon have a copy available for readers (if not already). Mixon's complaint contains some information pertinent to the John Lambert story that our staff reported on in yesterday's news item (see below).

Mixon's complaint contains a copy of his (Mixon's) annual evaluation from EFIB Chair George Carter. In that report, Carter used what is being referred to as "course rigor ratios" to determine the level of "rigor" in EFIB department courses (by instructor). These ratios are constructed so that a professor's Ds and Fs are combined, and then divided by the combined number of As and Bs awarded by that professor (for all students taught in the semester). The thinking is that the larger the ratio, the more rigorous the professor's classes.

According to the data provided by Carter, Mixon's course rigor ratio for the fall 2006 semester (DF/AB) is equal to 39/54, or 0.72, while the EFIB's cumulative rigor ratio is equal to 596/1,065, or 0.56. Carter's evaluation indicates that the Mixon-RR/EFIB-RR is 0.72/0.56, or 1.29, which means that Mixon's course rigor is 29 percent greater than the EFIB Department average (for undergraduate courses).

Sources tell *usmnews.net Reporter* that, during the 27 April 2007 EFIB meeting on visiting assistant professor of international business John Lambert's move to tenure track, Carter presented some evidence to suggest that Lambert's student evaluations were about the same as the EFIB average. Carter also reported that Lambert's "rigor" was less than the EFIB average. When pressed, sources say that Carter admitted that Lambert's rigor was *significantly* lower than the EFIB average.

Having the new information about Carter's evaluation procedures (shown above), our reporters visited the pickaprof.com grades database at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lambert's previous employer, for a look at Lambert's grading practices. We discovered that, while at UL-L, Lambert, who is trained in *management*, taught 13 sections across three different *economics* courses, which included Principles of Economics I (ECO 201), Principles of Economics II (ECO 202), and Money & Banking (ECO 320). These 13 sections contained a total of 458 students, and produced a cumulative GPA of 3.08, which is indeed quite high. On an individual basis, Lambert's course GPAs while at UL-L were 2.94 (ECO 201), 3.14 (ECO 202), and 3.58 (ECO 320) -- each of which is out of line with what one would expect from the CoB's EFIB course offerings.

What is most interesting about Lambert's UL-L grades is that there were 207 As, 137 Bs, 73 Cs, 18 Ds, and 23 Fs (as previous usmnews.net reports point out, pickaprof grades are collected from actual university records). These data were used to compute Lambert's

cumulative course rigor ratio: $[18+23]/[207+137] = 0.119$. This is an amazingly low number, and one that places Lambert significantly out of line with the rest of USM's EFIB Department. Lambert's course rigor is only about 21.3 percent of the average rigor level in the EFIB, and only 16.5 percent of the level of rigor of professor Franklin Mixon's courses (fall 2006). The first number indicates that Lambert has to maintain about **one-fifth** of the average level of rigor in the EFIB in order to hold on to his spot as an average EFIB instructor.

Sources tell our staff that Carter was pleased to report to EFIB faculty that Lambert seems to be reversing a decline in the number of EFIB majors in USM's CoB. With an almost non-existent rigor level, we can see how he is doing that. One of the things that has been reported on by *usmnews.net* is also evident here -- Lambert's low rigor level seems to be related to the fact that he always taught out of his area (management) while at UL-L. Given the structure of the EFIB and its curricula, expect more of the same while at USM.

As one source told us, "In more ways than one for the CoB, it's now a race to the bottom." We can't help but wonder what costs the CoB's students will ultimately face as a result of Carter's leadership of the EFIB.

April 30, 2007

HATTIESBURG --- Sources have informed *usmnews.net* Reporter that the EFIB Department has voted to move visiting assistant professor of international business, John Lambert (shown below), to a tenure-track line. Sources indicate that EFIB Chair George



John Lambert

Carter promoted Lambert's candidacy for the move based on his (Lambert's) reported service to the department over the past year. Thus, Lambert becomes the first EFIB faculty in years (if ever) to receive a tenure-track appointment based primarily on service. (Readers familiar with David Duhon's promotion to professor of management will recall that former CoB Dean Harold Doty's "letter of agreement" argued [to the Provost] for Duhon's promotion on the basis of service.) While some in the EFIB questioned Lambert's research and teaching qualifications, sources indicate that one senior professor attempted to allay any present concerns about Lambert's move to a tenure-track line by pointing out that Lambert can always be fired in his (official) third or sixth year.