

## *Special Report*

### **Coming Soon: Susan Doty's Cover** An Investigative Series on the use of the CoB's Budget

This installment in the *Special Report* series follows up on a tip provided to usmpride.com investigators concerning a job-opening advertisement placed by EFIB Chairman George Carter in the November 2006 issue of *Job Openings for Economists*. That ad is presented below, with highlights (of various shades) provided by our investigators:

#### **American Economic Association** **Job Openings for Economists** **November 2006**

#### **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI, Hattiesburg, MS**

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#### A2 Economics Education

The University of Southern Mississippi invites applications for an anticipated tenure-track nine-month position at the rank of assistant professor or higher beginning August 2007. The position includes administrative responsibilities as Director, Center for Economic Education. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. Position is contingent upon funding. Quality classroom and on line teaching is an expectation. Producing quality research and engaging in service activities in the department and college are also expected. Minimum qualifications are (1) receipt of an earned doctorate in economics or planned receipt by June 1, 2007, and (2) evidence of ability to produce scholarship and effective teaching. Applicants for ranks above assistant professor must meet department, college, and university expectations for the respective ranks. Each applicant should submit a curriculum vita, three letters of recommendation, and a copy of a research paper. Applications must be received no later than January 15, 2007. An equal opportunity-affirmative action employer. CONTACT: Economics Recruiting Committee; Department of Economics, Finance, and International Business; The University of Southern Mississippi; 118 College Drive #5072; Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001. e-mail: [George.Carter@usm.edu](mailto:George.Carter@usm.edu).

Sources tell usmpride.com that Carter has yet to inform the EFIB faculty that a search has begun for a new addition to the department. The details of this "secret search" in the EFIB are provided in the advertisement above.

As the advertisement points out, the EFIB is searching for an economist with expertise in the area of Economics Education. The successful applicant will fill a *new* nine-month tenure-track slot in the economics unit. The ad also calls for the appointment at (possibly) the rank of assistant professor, though higher ranks will be considered. The position includes administrative responsibilities as Director of the CoB's new Center for Economic Education. Finally, the successful applicant will be expected to teach online courses.

This advertisement/"secret search" raises a number of issues:

1. Why is the CoB creating 9-month Center Directorships? Do academic centers usually take summers off, or do they usually "produce" on a year-round basis?
2. How can an assistant professor be expected to fill the line created for a Director of a Center for Economic Education?
3. What online courses will this Director be expected to teach? What ECO courses have been officially approved for online delivery?

### **Commentary**

Of course, assistant professors can't be expected to properly direct a center. The ad does allow for "higher" ranks. However, sources tell usmpride.com that the use of language such as "rank of assistant professor or higher," as opposed to "rank of assistant, associate or full professor," is a marketing technique used in the EFIB in the recent past in order to produce a candidate pool tailor-made for a specific outcome (the technique referred to here is the subject of a future report at usmpride.com).

The CoB's so-called Centers are all 9-month endeavors. The goal of the CoB's BBER, which the CEE will be a part of, is not to produce a real product of any kind. Instead, its job appears to be to serve as a front for Susan Doty's statewide economics education delivery system, operated under the auspices of the Mississippi Council on Economic Education. A number of reports available at usmpride.com have reported on CoB Dean Harold Doty's development of the CEE.

Additionally, a new goal has emerged. Sources indicate that the USM central administration has promised a monetary reward to the USM Dean who delivers the most online courses this year. This is a race Doty wants to win, and George Carter is doing all he can to provide Doty with that victory. According to Carter, being a department chair is doing what someone tells you to do, even when you don't think it's the right thing to do. In this case, it appears as though Carter is being called on once again to subvert faculty governance in academic program issues.