

# 31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl

## Kaetsu Kronies

The choice of current interim chair of management and marketing, David Duhon, to hold the *Kaetsu Distinguished Professorship in International Business* was pretty much the last straw for those who were holding on to the hope that CoB cronyism was breathing its last breath. The choice of Duhon, the management prof who needed a so-called “letter of agreement” to reach *full* professor status in the CoB, marked the second straight time that the *Kaetsu* was held by a sitting administrator. It also marked the second time in a row that the *IB Professorship* was held by someone outside of the EFIB, where the “IB” stands for “International Business.”

When it comes to IB, the CoB’s John Lambert is the only game in town. Sure, he holds two online degrees (masters from Phoenix and DBA from Grenoble) and has one of the weaker research portfolios in JAG, but he does hold the title of “assistant professor of international business.” We also know that Lambert has a tenure-track position in the CoB only because EFIB chair, George Carter, made a secret deal with Lambert that was later backed by votes from Farhang Niroomand, Sami Dakhli, Akbar Marvasti, and several other EFIBers, but Lambert is the one who teaches the “IB” prefix courses in USM’s business college. Isn’t it about time that the *Kaetsu* actually went to someone who handles “international business” for the CoB? One would think so.

If the CoB is to advance, a goal it would seem new CoB dean Lance Nail supports, the old-guard cronyism has to be quashed, and for good. Pulling the *Kaetsu* out of the clutches of MGT & MKT, where it has been the past few years thanks to the ill-advised decision of former CoB dean, Harold Doty, to award it to *marketing* professor, Alvin Williams, seems like a place as good as any other to begin the anti-cronyism campaign. Had this been done years ago the CoB might still have former IB faculty Linghui Tang, who recently published in the *Journal of International Business Studies* under the banner of her new home, the College of New Jersey. Though the CoB is stuck with Lambert now, late is still better than never. Who knows which Tang-like IB prof will be convinced by the *Kaetsu* not to depart the CoB at some point in the future?

Let’s get to it. The process of building a better tomorrow for the CoB begins today.