

***Agents Provocateurs* & the Search for Center Directors**

We are receiving reports indicating that the search for a new Center for Economics Education (CEE) Director may be nearing its final stage. An e-mail from EFIB Chair George Carter to EFIB faculty dated 10 July 2007 stated that economics professors William Gunther and Akbar Marvasti have joined Carter to form a search committee of sorts. The problem for other EFIB faculty, however, is that the search process is set to close on 13 July 2007.

On top of the items above, a USMNEWS.NET reader has informed us that, when fall 2007 arrives, the CoB may see Sami Dakhliia or Akbar Marvasti assume the role of Director of the CoB's Bureau of Business and Economics Research (BBER), the parent organization for the CoB's CEE. Besides the obvious benefits that come with a CoB directorship, the Gunther era (as director) in the BBER showed all CoB faculty that little, if any, real responsibility accompanies such a position.¹ This would presumably be favored by both, particularly Marvasti, who has openly exhibited behaviors that indicate that he covets a relaxed workload.



Sami Dakhliia



Akbar Marvasti

Another benefit of this directorship is its 9-month arrangement, a feature that will allow Dakhliia to spend summers in France. Of course, serious bumps in salary would be expected in each case, and sources say that the support for the CoB's administration, essentially as *agents provocateurs*, shown by these two easily qualifies them for the kinds of special treatment these positions represent.²

“Rock, Paper, Scissors . . . Rock!”

Reporters at USMNEWS.NET would like to remind readers that over the next few days and weeks we will continue of our series, “Rock, Paper, Scissors . . . Rock!” In the

¹ The John Clark administration of the CoB's Center for Financial Services is another such example for CoB faculty to follow.

² USM faculty recognize, from its use by former USM historian Neil McMillen to describe administrative hiring within the Shelby Thames Administration, the significance of this term. Sources state that it applies to the Carter era in the EFIB as well, at least with regard to faculty hiring processes.

preview section at the end of the last installment, USMNEWS.NET reporters stated that a look at recent hiring processes on the finance side of the EFIB would occur. That issue will address botched hiring attempts regarding Douglas Witte, Richard Fu, and Phyllis Keys, among others. The last name in the string – Phyllis Keys – is familiar to long-time readers of USMNEWS.NET as the African-American female whose job offer, which reportedly came from former Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand (with the approval of former Dean Harold Doty), was more than \$10,000 per year *below* the amount offered to the CoB's two new assistant professors, Stephen Haggard and Matthew Hood. Of these two, Haggard remained at USM only a single year. He is departing for Missouri State University in August of 2007.