

Marvasti Leaving USM

HATTIESBURG – Numerous reports coming into USMNEWS.net indicate that Akbar Marvasti, one of the four former CoB economists forced to move to the CoAL in order to avoid termination at the hands of the Martha Saunders administration, is leaving USM before the 2010-11 academic year. Marvasti's departure means that Daniel Monchuk will be the only one remaining of the 10 CoB economists who were employed at the beginning of 2009-10, a situation that likely dooms the CoAL's economics program. As things now stand, there are tremendous holes in the CoAL-ECO class schedule for fall 2010.



Since coming to USM's CoB in 2006, Marvasti, pictured above, has been involved in one controversy or another. His participation in the so-called "EFIB Fridays" presentation series brought to light the years-old research that [he was resurrecting](#) in order to appear to be research active and garner merit raises. In terms of merit raises, Marvasti received an [inexplicably high](#) raise in [2007](#), after having been at USM for only one academic year. Some of the details suggest that Marvasti [benefitted](#) from close association with former CoB associate dean Farhang Niroomand. Niroomand is now the b-school dean at the University of Houston at Victoria.

The [controversies](#) involving Marvasti moved into the promotion and tenure processes of 2007-08 and 2008-09. Having come to USM as an associate professor, Marvasti [applied for promotion](#) shortly after arriving at USM. One of Marvasti's three external review letters was written by Charles Sawyer, then a professor of economics at Texas Christian University. However, Sawyer's letter [made no reference](#) to the fact that he (Sawyer) had [recently completed](#) a 25-year stint at USM, during which he (Sawyer) had hired Marvasti (2006). The Marvasti controversies later moved into the tenure decision when he applied for tenure at the beginning of the 2008-09 academic year. Normally, the Mississippi IHL reports the successful tenure applications in its May meetings minutes. In Marvasti's case, however, tenure was not [awarded until](#) the IHL's September meeting of 2009. At the time there were numerous reports that the decision was delayed until some sort of internal investigation had been completed.

There is no word as of yet regarding which university has stepped out and hired Marvasti. Of course, USMNEWS.net will bring that information to readers when it comes to light. Stay tuned for future reports on this situation.