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## Monchuk Gets Belated Tenure Ruling

HATTIESBURG – Outgoing CoB economist Daniel Monchuk was granted tenure during the Mississippi IHL's June-2010 meeting, one month after 42 other USM faculty received their tenure rulings from the IHL. Along with the belated tenure ruling, Monchuk was also promoted to associate professor of economics. Monchuk's tenure ruling marks the second consecutive tenure decision involving a USM economist that arrived late. USMNEWS.net readers will recall that economics professor Akbar Marvasti was granted tenure during the fall semester of 2009, which is several months later than the usual IHL timetable (see inserted story below). Marvasti's decision was reportedly delayed by an internal (USM) investigation of some sort.

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**Marvasti Tenured at Sept-09 IHL Meeting**

HATTIESBURG – CoB economics professor Akbar Marvasti was tenured during a special consideration of his tenure application at the IHL Board's 16/17-Sept-09 meeting. Not surprisingly, Marvasti's tenure application was the only one considered by IHL officials at this particular meeting, as the customary period for doing so is the May-June period each year. The section of the 16/17-Sept-09 Board Book pertaining to special consideration of Marvasti's tenure is inserted below.

4. Tenure

USM

Akbar Marvasti, Professor of Economics, Department of Business Economics and Decision Sciences, College of Business; effective September 18, 2009 for academic year 2009-2010

As the insert above indicates, Marvasti's tenure is effective 18-Sept-09, or from about one week ago. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that Marvasti's tenure was delayed pending the conclusion of an internal investigation of some non-curricular activities involving Marvasti.

The decision to tenure Marvasti at the Sept-09 Board meeting means that the two untenured faculty in the CoB's economics unit who are being considered for possible extensions of the tenure clock by USM provost Robert Lyman are Daniel Monchuk and Sami Dakhila, and not Monchuk and Marvasti as speculated in other reports. Considering Marvasti's tenure under so-called special circumstances and then allowing Monchuk and Dakhila extra tenure clock time will likely only fuel the flames of discontent (and low morale) on the Hattiesburg campus. Long-time readers of USMNEWS.net are well aware that Dakhila was "canned" by the University of Alabama after an unproductive tenure-track ride there from the late 1990s to around 2005. Giving Dakhila, who has not published a journal article since 2006, extra time during a second ride at USM will be seen as far out of bounds, according to sources.

Though it is not certain what caused the delay in Monchuk's case, USMNEWS.net has received reports indicating that one or more USM administrators had some reservations about awarding tenure to Monchuk. As long-time readers will recall, Monchuk is one of four mostly junior USM economists who were allowed to remain at USM after the Martha Saunders administration eliminated the CoB's economics degrees and faculty. The five mostly senior economists were forced to retire on 30-June-2010. That day is about two weeks away now.

In related news, the Mississippi IHL also eliminated the B.A. degree in economics at Alcorn State University. This action, taken at the June-2010 meeting, marks the beginning of what may be a statewide trend to purge economics degree programs from Mississippi's higher education institutions. Reports indicate that even the B.A. degree in



economics at USM will be terminated in a few years, joining the now-defunct CoB B.S. degree in economics.

Of the four mostly junior USM economists who were saved by the forced retirements, only two will return to USM for 2010-11. Deniz Gevrek and Sami Dakhliya departed for Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi and a university in Paris, respectively. Joining Monchuk in the CoAL is Akbar Marvasti. Monchuk came to USM in 2004, while Marvasti joined the CoB in 2006. USMNEWS.net's extensive library contains files recounting Monchuk's hiring, which is an interesting story. Look for future reports to cover that one.