

Breaking News

Bad News on the P&T Jailbreak Train

LONG BEACH – Reporters with USMNEWS.NET have just learned that the Draughn *Assistant* Professor of Healthcare Marketing, Michael Wittmann, is submitting a 2007-08 application to become the Draughn *Associate* Professor of Healthcare Marketing. Wittmann, who some sources believe is one of the highest paid *assistant* professors in marketing in the South, stands to earn a 9-month taxpayer-supported salary of just under \$100,000 per year with the salary increment that comes with promotion in the CoB. In addition to that, which includes the largest 2007 merit raise (at \$9,324), also one of the largest merit raises in CoB history, Wittmann's salary is supported by a \$1,000,000 endowment from the Draughn family. Such an endowment is capable of providing Wittmann with a total compensation package of almost \$150,000 per year during 2008-09 (assuming he is awarded promotion).

These figures for Wittmann are striking when compared to assistant professor of marketing Talai Osmonbekov's 9-month pay of only \$92,057. Osmonbekov's SEDONA vita shows a number of A-level journal publications -- something lacking on Wittmann's vita -- yet Osmonbekov was awarded just the 21st largest 2007 merit raise in the CoB (at only \$4,477). Wittmann will join economists Sami Dakhliya and Akbar Marvasti on the 2007-08 "P&T train."

What may come as bad news for the "passengers" mentioned above is the boarding of assistant professor of MIS, Fujun Lai. Lai is also submitting a dossier for promotion to associate professor, but Lai differs from Dakhliya and others in an important way: Lai has almost 20 publications. Yes, Lai has about **three times** the number of publications held by Sami Dakhliya, and **almost as many** publications as Akbar Marvasti, an associate professor of economics who is seeking a promotion to *full professor* and someone who has almost 25 years of academic experience. Lai's vita also exceeds Wittmann's in a similar fashion as it exceeds Dakhliya's.

What's really unique here is that all four faculty -- Dakhliya, Lai, Marvasti, and Wittmann --- are going up one or more years *early*, a fact that will generate a high level of scrutiny from the University Advisory Council and the USM Provost. With such a glaring disparity between what Lai has accomplished and what has been accomplished by the other three, things for Dakhliya, Marvasti and Wittmann might not be rosy once the CoB's P&T applications depart Joseph Greene Hall. According to one source, there may have to be at least one sacrificial lamb among the group.

Complicating matters will be the appearance of MIS assistant professor Kuo Lane Chen's "7th Year Review" dossier. Whether it plays a role in deflecting attention, in a bad way for Chen, from the Dakhliya et al. dossiers remains to be seen. Even this analysis assumes that any ongoing appeals and/or grievances from Daniel Michael, an assistant professor of management who failed 3rd Year Review in 2006-07, don't get in anyone else's way.