

Breaking News

Williams Reveals the 2007-08 CoB Professorships

HATTIESBURG – Reporters at USMNEWS.NET have just learned that Interim CoB Dean Alvin Williams has released the names of the recipients of the 2007-08 Named Professorships in USM's College of Business. The list of **Business Advisory Council Professors** includes Brigitte Burgess (Assoc Prof, FM), Charles Jordan (Prof, ACC), Fujun Lai (Assist Prof, MIS), Beth LaFleur (Prof, MKT), Farhang Niroomand (Prof, ECO), and Talai Osmonbekov (Assist Prof, MKT). The choice of Osmonbekov was an obvious one. Report after report at USMNEWS.NET continues to show how Osmonbekov's 2007 merit raise was much less than appropriate, given his performance over the 2004-06 evaluation period. The choice to name LaFleur and Niroomand as BAC Professors is less obvious. Neither is doing high-quality research at present, and LaFleur admitted to all CoB faculty in attendance at the 31-Aug-07 CoB faculty meeting that she (LaFleur) has used her 2007-08 BAC Faculty Scholars student to work on AACSB accreditation-related reports instead of academic research projects.

Among the **Partnership Society Professors** are Mary Anderson (Assist Prof, ACC), Cherylynn Becker (Assoc Prof, TM), Daniel Monchuk (Assist Prof, ECO), and Jennifer Sequeira (Assist Prof, MGT). Again, Monchuk would appear to be an obvious choice, given that USMNEWS.NET reports have indicated that his 2007 merit raise lagged far behind that of economist Akbar Marvasti, even though Monchuk's 2004-06 research performance appeared to equal that of Marvasti. (Neither Marvasti nor Sami Dakhli (Assist Prof, ECO) retained their 2006-07 professorships during the 2007-08 academic year. Both were surpassed in terms of research productivity (2004-06) by Osmonbekov, who now holds a BAC Professorship.) The choice of Becker is not so obvious. It has recently been reported that Becker's TM colleagues have been referring to her as the CoB's *Emerging Scholar*. Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that if the *ES* is indeed a real title, then Becker, whose record hardly begs for any professorship, should not also hold a PS Professorship.

As reported by USMNEWS.NET on a number of occasions, accounting professor Roderick Posey holds the **Morgan Professorship** in accounting. Posey claims, on the USM website, to have published more than 100 accounting articles. Numerous searches by USMNEWS.NET reporters and others have yet to produce more than five (5) of these.

Already known by most in the CoB is that Chang-Tseh Hsieh (Prof, MIS), John Clark (Assoc Prof, FIN), and Michael Wittman (Assist Prof, MKT) hold the **McCarty Professorship** in MIS, the **Center for Financial Services Professorship**, and the **Draughn Professorship** in Healthcare Marketing, respectively. What is not known is what Wittmann's actual salary, all told, is. If one uses \$25,000 as the payout for the Draughn Professorship, then Wittmann's 9-month income is no less than \$120,000. This figure (\$25,000) might seem conservative given the Draughns' gift of \$1,000,000 to support the professorship in healthcare marketing. Even using this figure, Wittmann,

whose record is inferior to that of Osmonbekov, is quite possibly the highest paid *assistant professor* of marketing in the U.S. South.

Once again Edward Nissan (Prof, ECO) retains the **Economics Professorship**, a title whose origin is unknown throughout the CoB. Matthew Hood (Assist Prof, FIN) also retains the **Banking Professorship**. What's more interesting is that both Hood and Stephen Haggard, now at Missouri State University, both held Banking Professorships during 2006-07. Where is the other Banking Professorship? While we can't say, we do know that it is *not* in James Lindley's hands. Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that it is likely that Williams scratched the second Banking Professorship so that Lindley would be left off of the professorships list.

Perhaps the most surprising announcement is that Williams continues to hold the **Kaetsu Professorship** in International Business. Williams, who does *not* hold any IB credentials, has held this title since the retirement of Tyrone Black. However, this is the first time he (Williams) has awarded the Kaetsu Professorship to himself. According to sources, the holding of professorships by administrators in the CoB does not look good to many outsiders. In this case, the professorship is also held by someone who earns \$175,000 per year.

Though a number of the 2007-08 CoB Professorships remain in the hands of *untenued* assistant professors -- a group that has little idea about how to get tenured and promoted in the CoB -- Williams' team appears to have curbed, at least somewhat, the disproportionate success of the CoB's economists. Only two (2) of the 10 BAC and PS Professorships were awarded to economists. One of these is former Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand, who sources say simply sat on the receiving end of another gift that the CoB historically provides former administrators. Also, the absence of former Dean Harold Doty from the list above continues to support the "Niroomand 5, Doty 0" series at USMNEWS.NET.