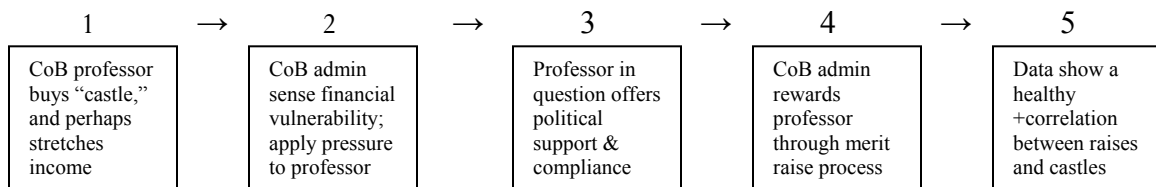


CoB Castles and CoB Merit Raises

USMNEWS.NET has examined the CoB's 2007 merit raise data ([2007 CoB Merit Raises](#)) in combination with the data on CoB faculty home values that was uncovered in the "CoB Castles" report ([CoB Castles](#)). Interestingly, the Spearman rank-correlation coefficient between the 2007 merit raise rankings and the home value rankings is just below +0.3, and it is significant at the 10% level. According to sources USMNEWS.NET reporters spoke with, this coefficient is likely to be at least two times larger than the correlation between the merit raise rankings and rankings based on the *quality* of CoB faculty research production.

What's at work here? The trail below offers a possibility:



Of course, the theory above is not new to the USMNEWS.NET's *31st & Pearl* columnist who penned a short column back in September of 2006 entitled "Why You Chose Academia." To close out this report, that column is inserted below. It should be required reading for new hires.

31st & Pearl

Why You Chose Academia

Note to all of the new hires: think about why you got into academics. Was it for the fulfillment that comes from scholarship and teaching? Or, was it for enrichment and treasures? It's hard to imagine, given where most of you studied, that it was the latter. Assuming that it was for the fulfillment that comes from scholarship and teaching, then pay no attention to those who "manage" the CoB. The current group of administrators in the CoB makes one decision after another with one goal in mind – money, for themselves and their friends and associates. Live financially conservatively, maintain your freedom, and follow your path.

31st & Pearl is a series housed at usmpride.com that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.