

Green, Marvasti, Neither, or Both?

Exploring Various Promotion Scenarios in USM's College of Business, 2007-08

News reports at USMNEWS.NET have indicated that associate professor of economics, Akbar Marvasti, has submitted his dossier for promotion to professor. Marvasti has been an associate professor at USM for one year so far, and by the end of the 2007-08 P&T process at USM, he will have been an associate professor at USM for two full years. Another associate professor of economics at USM, Trellis Green, has held that title since 1997, or for more than 10 years. Green has not heretofore submitted his application for promotion to full professor, though it is not known whether he will or not before the departmental deadline for 2007-08 consideration.¹

This report considers various scenarios involving the promotion to full professor of Marvasti and/or Green. Both joined the academic (economics) profession in the mid-1980s, so this is a useful comparison. We begin by looking at the research credentials of the two. Using a combination of the CoB's current journal ranking lists and the [Reaching out to Help the CoB](#) journal ranking system submitted in recent days to USMNEWS.NET, **Table 1** below lists what would appear to be the Top 3 refereed journal publications for each of these two EFIB economists.

Table 1			
Comparing Research Credentials: Marvasti & Green			
Name	Top 3 Journal Publications	CoB Ranking	Abroad Ranking [Grade]
Marvasti	<i>Economics Letters</i> ('99)	A	56 [B]
	<i>Economic Inquiry</i> ('05)	A	72 [B]
	<i>Applied Economics</i> ('98)	B	109 [B]
	mean rank: 79.0		
Green	<i>Ecological Economics</i> ('03)	not listed	26 [B+]
	<i>Land Economics</i> ('87)	A	not listed
	<i>Applied Economics</i> ('07)	B	109 [B]
	mean rank: 67.5		

Publications Source: CoB SEDONA vitae databank (spring 2007)

As **Table 1** above shows, Marvasti and Green have quite similar records when it comes to quality at the top of their vitae. Marvasti edges Green using the CoB's current ranking system, while Green surpasses Marvasti based on the [Reaching out to Help the CoB](#) ranking list provided to USMNEWS.NET. According to the [Reaching out to Help the CoB](#) list, Green's highest ranking publication came in 2003, when he published in *Ecological Economics*. That journal ranks 26th out of 168 economics, finance, marketing, management and accounting journals. Marvasti's top publication is a 1999 paper in *Economics Letters*, a journal ranked 56th.² These data support the idea that, if Marvasti is going up for promotion to professor in 2007-08, then Green should be allowed to advance as well.

At least three other comparisons are working in Green's favor as well. First, Green has done substantial grant-writing and service work since joining the CoB in the mid-1980s. A promotion to professor would give Green's activities in these areas the recognition they deserve. Second, Green currently earns \$78,000 (approximately) per year, while Marvasti's \$8,300 merit raise for 2007 took him over the \$88,000 per year mark. Third, Green was unjustly denied his promotion to associate professor of economics in 1994, and he (Green) had to file a lawsuit against EFIB Chair George Carter in order to get it. Carter and three co-

¹ Sources do tell USMNEWS.NET reporters that a Green submission is very unlikely at this point.

² The information in **Table 1** also shows that two of Green's Top 3 publications have come since the turn of the 21st Century, while only one of Marvasti's have arrived since that point.

defendants settled the lawsuit in 1997, and Green was awarded a promotion to associate, a promotion raise, and an undisclosed financial settlement. These points suggest that it's time the CoB turned things around and did better by Trellis Green.

While it may be difficult to rank three of the four promotion scenarios involving these two – which are “Green Only,” “Green & Marvasti,” and “Neither” – this report provides evidence that argues for ranking the remaining scenario, “Marvasti Only,” fourth out of four.