

Missing & Musical Professorships

What Happened to the *Williams & Parham-Bridges*, and Who Should Hold Them?

The CoB has a few professorships. The list includes (1) the *Morgan Distinguished Professorship in Accounting*, (2) the *Draughn Distinguished Professorship in Healthcare Marketing*, (3) the *McCarty Distinguished Professorship in Information Systems*, and (4) the *Kaetsu Distinguished Professorship in International Business*. Not included among this list are the *Williams Distinguished Professorship in Minority Entrepreneurship* and the *Parham-Bridges Distinguished Professorship in Real Estate*. These two are omitted from the list of four above *not* because they aren't funded. No, they have been funded, and in the case of the *Parham-Bridges*, the funding is substantial *and* it has been around (i.e., in the USM Foundation) for quite some time. There are also candidates in the CoB for these two professorships -- Jennifer Sequeira (assistant professor of management) in the case of the *Williams*, and Ernest King (associate professor of legal studies) in the case of the *Parham-Bridges*. Sequeira has published in the *Journal of Developmental Entrepreneurship*, while King has real estate publications in places like the *Journal of Real Estate Finance & Economics*, *Real Estate Law Journal* and the *Journal of Real Estate Research*.

Why aren't these professorships occupied? That's the real question. The professorships listed above as (1) through (4) are, and by Roderick Posey (professor of accounting), Michael Wittmann (associate professor of marketing), Chang-Tseh Hsieh (professor of IS), and David Duhon (professor of management), respectively. Not only are these four professorships taken, in at least two cases they are held by *undeserving* individuals. Duhon holds no credentials in international business, and has barely reached double-digits when it comes to journal publications. Posey claims to have "more than 100" accounting publications, yet numerous Google Scholar searches performed since 2006 yielded, in each case, fewer than five. Given that there are no CoB faculty who have distinguished themselves (via journal publication) in IB, the *Kaetsu Professorship* should be held by assistant professor of IB John Lambert, the CoB's only IB faculty member. The *Morgan Professorship* should be held by accounting professor Marc DePree, the CoB accountant who owns the most diverse list of A-level journal publications. So, if the *undeserving* are qualified to hold these two professorships, why are the *Williams* and the *Parham-Bridges* currently *unoccupied* altogether?

Table 1 contains the set of six CoB professorships. It also includes the names of the six individuals who should hold those professorships, assuming that the professorships are allocated on the basis of merit.

Table 1
Best Allocation of CoB Professorships

Professorship	Holder
<i>Draughn Distinguished Professorship</i>	Michael Wittmann
<i>Kaetsu Distinguished Professorship</i>	John Lambert
<i>McCarty Distinguished Professorship</i>	Fujun Lai
<i>Morgan Distinguished Professorship</i>	Marc DePree
<i>Parham-Bridges Distinguished Professorship</i>	Ernest King
<i>Williams Distinguished Professorship</i>	Jennifer Sequeira

As stated earlier, Sequeira and King should hold the *Williams* and *Parham-Bridges*, respectively, while DePree and Lambert should hold the *Morgan* and *Kaetsu*, respectively. Because the marketing unit has been so devastated by faculty flight since 2003, Wittmann is easily the most qualified to hold the *Draughn*, a title he currently does hold. Finally, based on all of the reports here at USMNEWS.net in recent weeks and months, associate professor of IS Fujun Lai is easily the most qualified holder of the *McCarty*. Behind Lai are Donna Davis and Hsieh, two long-time CoB professors.

Having *all six* of these chairs filled, and having them filled by *qualified faculty*, will go a long way towards making CoB dean Lance Nail's life easier and more productive when it comes to AACSB re-accreditation and private fundraising efforts. As it stands, the current disposition of these six professorships is hindering efforts on both fronts.