

# Prince Akbar

The June 2007 issue of "EFIB News" (see [EFIB News, June 2007](#)) reported on associate professor of economics Akbar Marvasti's (shown below) request to participate in USM's QEP faculty development seminar program. In making his



Akbar Marvasti

request, Marvasti asked EFIB chair George Carter to apply a one-course reduction in his (Marvasti's) teaching, as opposed to a \$1,500 research stipend. In fact, Marvasti specifically requested that Carter eliminate the ECO 201, 1:00pm-2:15pm section from his 9-hour teaching schedule (see Marvasti's e-mail request below).

**Date:** Wed, 6 Jun 2007  
**From:** Akbar Marvasti <Akbar.Marvasti@usm.edu>  
**To:** 'EFIB Department' <cob-ecfinintbus@usm.edu>  
**Reply-to:** EFIB Department <cob-ecfinintbus@usm.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: [Cob-ecfinintbus] FW: Recruiting Faculty for QEP FacultyDevelopment Seminar

George,

Thank you for the suggestion. I am interested and I like to take the course load reduction in the fall. If possible, I like the following class to be dropped from my fall schedule.

3278 ECO 201 H006 3 Prin Of Eco I 1:00pm-2:15pm TR

Do you happen to know when the class meets?

Akbar

As the teaching schedule insert below shows, Carter jumped into action and removed the section of ECO 201 from Marvasti's teaching schedule, as requested by Marvasti.

## MARVASTI

9682	ECO	201	3	Prin Of Eco I	11:00am-12:15am	TR	Marvasti
3279	ECO	201	3	Prin Of Eco I	6:30pm-9:15pm	T	Marvasti
			3	Course Release - Academically Qualified			
			3	Course Release - QEP Fellowship			

Carter informed EFIB faculty that Marvasti had received a “QEP Fellowship,” as shown above, making Marvasti the EFIB’s sole “QEP Fellow.” Now Marvasti has a TTh, 2-course teaching load that provides more than a 4-day weekend each week during fall 2007.

In another interesting development, sources are reporting that during the EFIB's 30-Aug-07 faculty meeting, Sami Dakhliya (assistant professor of economics), William Gunther (professor of economics), and Edward Nissan (professor of economics) were all nominated to serve on the 2007-08 Dean's Search Committee. Despite Dakhliya's position as an  *untenured assistant professor*  who is teaching a 9-hour course load while also serving as the **Chair** of the CoB's Journal Ranking Committee, Marvasti failed to "step up" and take Dakhliya's place among the economics nominees. And, as shown above, Marvasti is an  *associate professor*  with only a 6-hour teaching load and few service responsibilities. Not only that, Gunther lives 3 hours or more away from Hattiesburg (in Josephine, AL), while Nissan is, according to sources, "up in years" compared to all other EFIB faculty. Again, Marvasti failed to "step up," according to sources. In one final note, despite a myriad of health concerns, concerns which led to his resignation as the CoB's Associate Dean, Farhang Niroomand was elected to serve on the CoB's Advisory Committee. This indicates a "willingness to serve" on Niroomand's part.

As Duane Cobb has stated before, from what we've seen from Marvasti over the past 12 months or more, it appears as though he is allergic to work. After 1.5 academic years in the CoB, he has yet to teach more than a 6-hour load. He never has multiple preps. His committee service is negligible, while his research production seems barely noticeable (and still his 2007 merit raise was inexplicably about \$8,300). Yet with all of this USMNEWS.NET learned that Marvasti has been in academia since 1985 (approx), and, according to a former EFIB economist, this stint appears to have been anything but a smooth ride. With more than 20 years in the field, one would think that he would be doing more.

We will continue to follow the news surrounding the CoB’s new QEP Fellow in the coming weeks and months.