

Putting the “Gap” in “Gappy” Examining the USM Departure of Sami Dakhli

As the CoB’s economists depart the Joseph Greene Hall stage at the end of the 2009-10 academic year, USMNEWS.net will be examining the research credentials that will be leaving the CoB, if not the institution as a whole. This installment focuses on associate professor Sami Dakhli, who is one of the four mostly junior economists who was saved by the forced retirements of five mostly senior CoB economists. Dakhli was scheduled, as of fall 2009, to move from the CoB to USM’s College of Arts & Letters after 2009-10. However, Dakhli took a position with a French university during a spring 2010 stint in Europe, and as a result he will be leaving USM in mid 2010.

What will the CoB (USM) lose with Dakhli’s departure? On the research front, Table 1 below suggests not much. As the title of this installment indicates, Dakhli’s research record is, to use former EFIB chairman George Carter’s phrase, “gappy.” One can see why Dakhli was, to use another Carterism, “canned” by the University of Alabama after a tenure-track run that began after Dakhli received his PhD in the late 1990s. For a PhD-granting, state flagship institution like UA, there was just “no *there there*” in Dakhli’s c.v. to justify him staying on board any longer.

Table 1 – Dakhli’s Journal Publications Trail

Year	Journal Publications
2010	
2009	
2008	
2007	
2006	<i>Manchester School of Economic & Social Studies</i> <i>Public Choice</i> <i>Review of International Economics</i>
2005	
2004	<i>Economics Bulletin</i> <i>Public Choice</i>
2003	
2002	<i>Economic Theory</i>
2001	
2000	
1999	<i>Journal of Economic Dynamics & Control</i>
1998	

Fast-forwarding to 2006 takes us to the point where the EFIB search team of Carter and former CoB economics professor Charles Sawyer praised Dakhli's candidacy before other EFIB faculty. Dakhli was hired in 2006, and he promptly adjusted his by-line institutional affiliation on journal articles listed for 2006 in the table above. Clearly, then, Dakhli has been doing relatively little on the research front since arriving at USM for 2006-07, putting a (another) "Failed" stamp on the search efforts of Carter-Sawyer.

Finally, Dakhli has been at the center of a number of controversies in the CoB since 2006. Readers are invited to peruse the Archives here at USMNEWS.net for more on these. They involve a number of issues, including merit raises, tenure and promotion, the infamous spring 2007 CoB faculty meeting, and more.