

**Rock, Paper, Scissors -- Rock!**  
**How Hiring (and Firing) in the EFIB has Gone off of the Rails**

Recently, a USMNEWS.NET report indicated that a report on hiring in the EFIB was forthcoming. That report has since morphed into a series, out of which this is Part I. This installment in the series details the chaotic human resources situation on the economics side of the EFIB since EFIB Chair George Carter (see below) re-assumed the reigns of the department in August of 2005.



**George Carter**

According to sources, the EFIB entered the job market in the fall of 2005 in hopes of finding a replacement for retired associate professor of economics Frank Whitesell. As the process of bringing selected candidates for that opening began to take shape in the spring of 2006, the chaos began. Through the series of resignations submitted by assistant professors Melody Lo, Sunny Wong, and David Sharp, sources indicate that the EFIB suddenly found itself down four faculty, and falling.

As the resignations started to occur, Carter began submitting salary offers to candidates who had just completed their on-campus interviews, and at the same time as other candidates arrived on campus for their interviews. Based on information from sources, the succession of offers, and answers, is summarized below in Table 1:

**Table 1**  
**ECO Job Offers, 2006**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Offer</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Dakhliya, Sami	#1	Yes
Liu, Xuepeng	#2	No
Servatka, Maros	#3	No
Marku, M'glen	#4	No
Marvasti, Akbar	#5	Yes

As Table 1 above points out, the resignations (of Lo, Wong, and Sharp) were being delivered faster than replacements were being brought into the EFIB. When the dust settled, after entering the 2005-2006 academic year down one economist, the EFIB ended that year down two, for a net change of minus one. Attempts by Carter to reel in other candidates from the job market proved unsuccessful, as they reported back to the CoB having already accepted offers elsewhere.

After the results were tallied, the EFIB had lost Whitesell, Lo, Wong, and Sharp, but had gained Dakhlia (see below) and Marvasti (see below).



**Sami Dakhlia**



**Akbar Marvasti**

In November of 2006, then-CoB Dean Doty authorized EFIB Chair George Carter to re-enter the economics market. However, this time Carter was authorized to seek (1) a replacement for Bill Gunther as Director of Bureau of Business and Economic Research, and (2) a new Director for the CoB's Center for Economics Education. In doing so, sources tell USMNEWS.NET that Doty usurped two regular-line positions in economics and directed them toward a quasi-administrative use.

Sources inform USMNEWS.NET that in January of 2007 George Carter went back into the economics market and selected a number of finalists for the CEE Director position. Three of these were brought to campus. According to sources, eventually, all three were offered the position, and all three said "no." We used this information to update Table 1, now retitled Table 2 and inserted below:

**Table 2**  
**ECO Job Offers, 2006-07**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Offer</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Dakhlia, Sami	#1	Yes
Liu, Xuepeng	#2	No
Servatka, Maros	#3	No
Marku, M'glen	#4	No
Marvasti, Akbar	#5	Yes

Asarta, Carlos	#6	No
Naufal, George	#7	No
Troost, William	#8	No

As Table 2 above points out, the hiring process in the EFIB appears to be breaking down. At this point, the department has lost four economists in the past two years, and had replaced only two of them. The final three candidates brought to USM for interviews -- Asarta, Naufal, and Troost -- all said "no" to offers to direct the CoB's new Center for Economics Education. In doing so, they extended the number of "no" responses to six (6) out of the last eight (8) employment offers extended by the Carter-headed EFIB.

By the time the dust settled on the failed 2006-2007 job search process in the EFIB, economics professor Charles Sawyer shocked the EFIB with his unexpected retirement, leaving the EFIB down three professors and another 37 refereed publications (see [www.usmnews.net](http://www.usmnews.net) for reports on faculty losses, including Sawyer, since the CoB's AACSB Peer Review Team left Hattiesburg in early February of 2007). Sawyer's retirement left many of the CoB's junior faculty asking themselves "What is going on?"

Stay tuned for part 2 in this series.