

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

Recently, a USMNEWS.NET feature item 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 II. We pick up where we concluded issue I, discussing 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

Part I in this series concluded with the following table and analysis:

Name	Offer	Answer
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 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?"

Information has since come to USMNEWS.NET indicating that the Table 2 information (see above) from Part I in this series is incomplete. With new information related to an earlier USMNEWS.NET report, sources now tell USMNEWS.NET that Carter actually *made an offer* to Ward Sayre of Agnes Scott College (GA) during the March/April 2007 period. Readers will recall that Sayre was recently hired to join the economic development faculty in USM's College of Arts & Letters (CoAL). Sources state now that Sayre made that decision with *two offers in hand*, one from the CoAL and the other from Carter and the CoB. Of course, this means that Table 2 from Part I in this series should be updated, which we do below as Table 1 in this report:

Table 1
ECO Job Offers, 2006-07

Name	Offer	Answer
Dakhliya, 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
Sayre, Ward	#9	No

The data in Table 1 above now indicate that seven (7) of the last nine (9) job offers extended by EFIB Chair Carter have been declined, for a rejection rate of 77.8 percent (over the 2006-07 period).

Issue I in this series also alluded to questions surrounding the quality of the replacements relative to their predecessors. Table 2 below examines the research records (2004-present) of two replacements, Sami Dakhliya (assistant professor of economics) and Akbar Marvasti (associate professor of economics), and of two faculty who departed during the job search process that succeeded in bringing Dakhliya and Marvasti into the

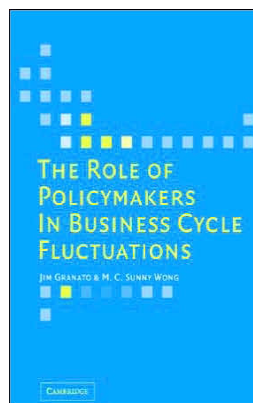
CoB. These are former assistant professors of economics Melody Lo and Sunny Wong.

Table 2
Research Records of 4 Current/Former EFIB Economists

	<i>Current</i>	<i>Former</i>	
	Dakhlia	Marvasti	Lo
			Wong
2007			Appl Econ J of Policy Mod
2006	Public Choice Rev of Int Econ Manchester School	Eastern Econ J Pacific Econ Rev	J of Int Money & Fin Q Rev of Econ & Fin Economics Letters Southern Econ J
2005		J of Econ Issues Economic Inquiry	J of Macroecono
2004	Public Choice Economics Bulletin		Applied Fin Econ Pol Res Quart

Sources: EBSCOhost and Google Scholar

The Google Scholar part of the search that led to the production of Table 2 above also turned up a scholarly book by Wong, published by the Cambridge University Press in 2006. The cover of that book, entitled *The Role of Policymakers in Business Cycle Fluctuations*, is inserted below (amazon.com):¹



¹ Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that, during the 2005 faculty evaluation process, then-EFIB Chair Mark Klinedinst consulted with economics professor Charles Sawyer on the credit Wong should be given for this book. Klinedinst was questioning the quality of Cambridge University Press, and, as sources indicate, he (Klinedinst) hoped that Sawyer would assist him in discounting the value of Wong's book. By all accounts, Sawyer would not do so. However, it is episodes such as this one that contributes to the high turnover that the EFIB and other CoB departments have experienced in recent years. Wong is now at the University of San Francisco, a Tier II university (*U.S. News & World Report's America's Best Colleges*). USM is a Tier IV institution.

Given the information in Table 2 above, sources tell USMNEWS.NET that it is difficult to see how the EFIB was not diminished by the net result of losing Lo, David Sharp (assistant professor of economics), Frank Whitesell (associate professor of economics), and Wong (all over the 2005-06 period) -- plus the subsequent retirement of Sawyer (in 2007) -- and gaining Dakhli and Marvasti (in 2006).

Part III in this series will begin our look at the human resources carousel on the FIN side of the Carter-headed EFIB.