

Special Report

Want to See the Latest Info on Tenure Requirements?

Part II

An Investigative Series on CoB Faculty Research Credentials

A number of recent reports available at usmpride.com have commented on the wide array of answers given by CoB junior faculty to the AACSB Peer Review Team (Feb 2007) regarding the CoB's (unwritten) requirements for tenure. Well, sources now tell usmpride.com reporters that Kenneth Zantow's Tenure dossier has been sailing through the T&P pipeline this academic year (2006-07). As such, his research record, whatever it is, appears to be a **tenure-able** one. Let's examine that record.

Table 1
Kenneth Zantow's Research Record

Year	Journal Publications
2006	"Strategic Postures of Third-Party Logistics Providers in Mainland China" <i>International Journal of Physical Distribution & Logistics Management</i> , Vol. 36, No. 10, 793-819 Qiang Wang, Kenneth Zantow , and Fujun Lai
2005	"More than Fun and Games: Reconsidering the Virtues of Strategic Management Simulations" <i>Academy of Management Learning & Education</i> , Vol. 4, No. 4, 451-458 Kenneth Zantow , Dave S. Knowlton, and David C. Sharp
2005	"Factors Affecting Students' Medicine-Taking Habits" <i>Journal of American College Health</i> , Vol. 54, No. 3, 177-183. Chalmer E. Labig, Jr., Kenneth Zantow , Tim O. Peterson
2005	"Attribution of Injury in the Shrimp Antidumping Case: A Simultaneous Equations Approach" <i>Economics Bulletin</i> , Vol. 6, No. 5, 1-10 David Sharp and Kenneth Zantow

Sources: EBSCOhost and Google Scholar (2007)

Zantow's research record shows *only* four (4) published journal articles -- three occurring in 2005, and another in 2006. Readers should note that Zantow went through the CoB's 3rd Year Tenure Review procedure during spring semester of 2004. Sources tell usmpride.com reporters that Zantow was given a negative recommendation at that time, but CoB Dean Doty chose to go outside of the usual USM Handbook's guidelines for 3rd

Year Review by offering Zantow the opportunity to come before the CoB again in the spring of 2005 with what has been referred to as a "4th Year Review". Sources tell us that even then (spring 2005) Zantow continued to receive negative reviews, though only from a minority of reviewers.

What's also interesting about Zantow's record in Table 1 above is that *all four* publications are in "Other" rated journal outlets, using the CoB's official journal ranking lists. Of these, only two are even in Zantow's field (management) and one of these is a pedagogical article in a journal that Zantow is affiliated with (editorial/editorial review board connection). Zantow's affiliation with the *AoML&E* was the subject of prior reports here at usmpride.com.

Commentary

It appears that, upon issuing Zantow's reprieve in spring of 2004, CoB Dean Harold Doty may have put some incentives before USM economist David Sharp that worked to push Zantow over the research bar.¹ Note that two of Zantow's four articles in Table 1 above were published with Sharp. One of these also involved Dave S. Knowlton, a research associate of Sharp, and the other covered an economics topic (with Sharp) that was published in an economics journal (*Economics Bulletin*).

What about the incentives for Sharp? Archived reports available on this website show Sharp's penchant for "high dollar" travel, such as the report headlined below:

Special Report

Back to Orlando: David Sharp Taps into GSERC An Investigative Series on CoB Travel

This particular report provides the details of a rather expensive month of travel for Sharp back in January of 2002. Some excerpts from that report are inserted below:

January of 2002: A Big Month for Sharp

According to **Employee Travel Voucher 6018**, Sharp was in Atlanta attending the Allied Social Science Annual Convention from January 2 through January 6, 2002. During that trip he accumulated over \$800 in expenses, of which he was reimbursed \$500. The reimbursement was funded by the Division of Business Administration, USMGC. The travel voucher for the Atlanta trip was signed by Sharp and [illegible].

¹ Sharp is no longer affiliated with USM's Department of Economics, Finance and International Business. He departed the CoB for the private sector following spring semester 2006.

About 2 weeks after returning to USMGC from Atlanta, Sharp traveled from USMGC to Orlando to attend a Time Series Forecasting seminar conducted by SAS/ETS. According to **Employee Travel Voucher 6019**, Sharp arrived by air in Orlando on 1/22. He departed Orlando by air on 1/27. This trip, his second in January of 2002, was funded by the Gulf South Economic Research Center at USMGC. As such, the voucher was signed by Sharp and Dr. Phillip Jeffress, Director of GSERC.

What follows in the space below is a detailed analysis associated with Sharp's 2002 trip to Orlando, FL.

OTHER EXPENSES

Item	Date	Place Where Expenses Occurred	Amount
Registration	01/22	SAS Orlando	\$637.50
Car Rental	01/22	Alamo Rent-A-Car, L.L.C.	\$185.57
			Total Other Expenses \$823.07
			Total Expenses \$1,657.07
MAXIMUM REIMBURSEMENT ALLOWED →[\$1,657.07]			

Additional Analysis

Sharp's trip to Orlando in January of 2002 is a good example of the many "pots of money" available that exist in CoB. Existence of most of these pots is not widely known, such that Sharp was able to tap into GSERC to the tune of over \$1,600 in January of 2002. Perhaps only Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand knows about each and every "pot" in the CoB.

The **OTHER EXPENSES** column for this trip (see above) contains the most intriguing details of Sharp's travel. The registration fee in this case was almost \$650, though a portion of this might have covered meals over the 4-5 days that Sharp remained in Orlando. Note also, however, that Sharp used almost \$200 renting a car from Alamo (rented on the first day). Combined with the \$443.50 air fare, Sharp spent about \$630 in transportation to, in, and from Orlando.

Given the total tab of this trip to Orlando --- Sharp was reimbursed the entire amount of \$1,657.07 --- one would think he traveled to Europe. Also, given the ASSA tab detailed at the beginning of this report, Sharp was reimbursed almost \$2,200 for the month of January (of 2002) alone.

Is this kind of support routinely available to faculty across the CoB? Thinking about this from another direction: is this the kind of travel behavior that breaks the CoB's back?

Of course, it's quite possible that at the time of Zantow's 3rd Year Tenure Review troubles in the spring of 2004, Doty knew that Sharp and Zantow were gearing up production for a run at tenure in the spring of 2007. The pair may have even secured one or more "revise and resubmit" invitations before spring of 2004. Thus, all Doty had to do was prevent CoB faculty from pushing a terminal contract on to Zantow's desk.


Reporters at usmpride.com uncovered the story that in February of 2003 Sharp took a trip back "home" to Memphis -- at the invitation of the University of Memphis -- and USM's College of Business covered the tab. Details from that report are below:

Special Report
David Sharp "Invited" Home to Memphis
 An Investigative Series on CoB Travel

This "Special Report" continues a multi-part examination of Employee Travel Vouchers in USM's College of Business. In this report, we examine the details of an "Invitation" to present a paper in Memphis received by David Sharp (Assistant Professor of Economics) in February 2003. The details of this trip are interesting, as readers will see below.

Purpose and Place of Visit

The voucher filed by Sharp in this case lists the same, curious entry under "Purpose and Place of Visit". Below, we present a scan of what Sharp entered:



**EMPLOYEE
TRAVEL VOUCHER**

**IMPORTANT-SEE INSTRUCTIONS
ON BACK**

Employee DAVID SHARP

The travel reimbursement check will be mailed to the
paycheck, or advice (check stub) is mailed.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

Purpose and Place of Visit <u>UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS TO PRESENT PAPER TO GRADUATE SEMINAR IN ECONOMICS (INVITED PAPER)</u>	Department Name <u>Division of Business Admin</u>
Others On Trip <u>---</u>	

MEALS AND LODGING

Date	2/14/03	2/15/03	2/16/03	2/17/03		
Departure Time	<u>10:45 AM-PM</u>	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM
Arrival Time	<u>12:04 AM-PM</u>	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM	AM-PM
Breakfast		<u>\$ 5.00</u>	<u>\$ 00</u>	<u>\$ 5.00</u>		
Lunch	<u>\$ 10.00</u>	<u>\$ 10.00</u>	<u>\$ 10.00</u>			
Dinner	<u>\$ 25.00</u>	<u>\$ 20.00</u>	<u>\$ 20.00</u>			
Lodging	<u>Stayed at in-laws</u>					

The "Purpose . . ." entry indicates that Sharp was "Invited" to come present his research, presumably to students in a Graduate Seminar at the University of Memphis. Sharp, himself a graduate of the University of Memphis (multiple degrees), also notes that he stayed with his "in-laws."

In addition to the \$110.00 in meals for which Sharp received reimbursement, he spent \$325.50 in air fare to and from Memphis, as the scan below indicates:

TRAVEL BY PUBLIC CARRIER					
Date	From	To	Mode	Ticket Amount	
2/14/07	EVANSTON/BERKELEY AIRPORT	MEMPHIS INTL AIRPORT	AIR		
2/13/07	MEMPHIS INTL AIRPORT	EVANSTON/BERKELEY AIRPORT	AIR	\$225.50	
OTHER EXPENSES					
Total Travel By Public Carrier					\$225.50

Thus, the total for Sharp's (or the Sharps'?) trip to Memphis (or home?) rises to about \$435, all of which he was reimbursed by USM.

Analysis and Commentary

This is yet another discovery that begs the question: What is the policy regarding "invited" travel? Isn't the "inviting" organization supposed to pick up the tab? Of course, the trip back "home" to stay with the "in-laws" elevates this case above "simple example."

These and other issues will be addressed as the "Special Reports" series on CoB travel continues.

Funding for this trip, though irregular (out of bounds?), may have been one of the rewards for "mentoring" Zantow that Doty was able to funnel down to Sharp. Though speculative, this is all too possible to simply brush aside.

In any case, the preferential treatment given to Kenneth Zantow by the Doty administration in the CoB is one of the most egregious cases of preference and privilege one can cite, going back a number of years. Junior faculty in the CoB, particularly those who come under heavy scrutiny with regard to tenure and promotion standards, or annual evaluation figures, should remember this specific case. Doing so could prove beneficial to them at some future point in the CoB careers.

Junior faculty in the CoB may want to print this report and hang on to it.