

Updated Below...

*Special Report*

**How Many Decades Equals “Established?”**

An Investigation into Course Scheduling in the CoB

This Special Report examines the spring 2007 teaching schedule in the EFIB. Sources tell usmpride.com that EFIB Chair George Carter provided soft schedules to the newly hired economists because they “are not established in the profession yet.” This report looks at the spring 2007 teaching schedule of one of the two new hires in economics, Akbar Marvasti. Marvasti’s spring 2007 schedule is presented below:

**MARVASTI**

ECO	202	H001	3	Prin Of Eco II	9:00am-9:50am	MWF
ECO	202	H002	3	Prin Of Eco II	10:00am-10:50am	MWF
			3	Course Release - Academically Qualified		
			3	Course Release - New Hire		
			12			MWF

As the schedule above shows, Marvasti is teaching two sections of Prin of Eco II (one preparation), from 9:00am until 10:50am on MWF. He is receiving a 3-hour release for being “Academically Qualified,” and an additional 3-hour release for being a “New Hire.” The second of the two release credits is, using Carter’s words, intended to allow Marvasti to become established in the profession.

Investigators at usmpride.com investigated Marvasti’s experience in higher education, and came up with the details provided below in this report. A section of Marvasti’s vita is presented below, showing his experience in academia:

**CURRENT POSITION** Visiting Professor of Economics  
Pomona College, Claremont, CA

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Academics:**

2000-2005

Professor of Economics

University of Houston-Downtown, Houston, TX

1993-2000

Associate Professor of Economics

University of Houston-Downtown, Houston, TX

1990-1993

Assistant Professor of Economics

University of Houston-Downtown, Houston, TX

1985 to 1990

Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics  
East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

As the timeline above shows, Marvasti was hired by USM after serving a one-year stint (2005-06) as a Visiting Professor of Economics at Pomona College in California. Prior to last year Marvasti spent about 15 years as a tenure-track faculty member in economics at the University of Houston, Downtown (1990-2005). And, before that period of time, Marvasti lists a Visiting Assistant Professor of economics job at East Carolina University. The table below summarizes Marvasti's experience in academia:

**Table 1**  
**Marvasti's Academic Experience**

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Place</u>
2006-07	Associate Professor	University of Southern Mississippi
2005-06	Visiting Professor	Pomona College
2004-05	Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
2003-04	Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
2002-03	Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
2001-02	Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
2000-01	Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
1999-00	Associate Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
1998-99	Associate Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
1997-98	Associate Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
1996-97	Associate Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
1995-96	Associate Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
1994-95	Associate Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
1993-94	Associate Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
1992-93	Assistant Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
1991-92	Assistant Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
1990-91	Assistant Professor	University of Houston, Downtown
1989-90	Visiting Asst. Professor	East Carolina University
1988-89	Visiting Asst. Professor	East Carolina University
1987-88	Visiting Asst. Professor	East Carolina University
1986-87	Visiting Asst. Professor	East Carolina University
1985-86	Visiting Asst. Professor	East Carolina University

As the summary table above indicates, newly hired EFIB economist Akbar Marvasti is entering his 22<sup>nd</sup> year (in 2006-07) as a full-time faculty in the American higher education system. Given the timeline above, Marvasti has been in academia about as long as CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand, and about two years longer than professor Mark Klinedinst, although according to Carter, he (Marvasti) has yet to become established in the profession.

As other reports at usmpride.com have done with various CoB faculty, this report examines Marvasti's research productivity using the journal rankings from *Enhancing Faculty Productivity*. A summary table using this information is provided below:

**Table 2**  
**Marvasti's Research Output, 1985-2005**

Year	A-Level	B-Level	C-Level	"Other"
2005	1	1	0	0
2004	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0
2002	0	0	0	0
2001	0	0	2	0
2000	0	0	1	2
1999	1	0	0	0
1998	0	1	0	1
1997	0	0	0	0
1996	0	0	1	0
1995	0	0	0	0
1994	0	1	1	0
1993	0	0	0	0
1992	0	1	0	0
1991	0	0	0	0
1990	0	0	0	0
1989	0	0	0	2
1988	0	0	1	0
1987	0	0	0	1
1986	0	0	0	0
1985	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

Given Carter's comments, the details provided in this report are very intriguing. At the very least, the information provided here calls into question the allocation of resources in the CoB. Is Carter (and the CoB in general) allocating release-time in a way that provides the greatest returns to research endeavors? These and other questions will continue to be explored in greater depth by usmpride.com.

**Update, 10/30/2006**

A number of readers have responded to this report, offering some interesting feedback. One tip forwarded to our investigators pertains to Marvasti's stint at ECU, which a reader indicates was supposed to be on tenure track, at least according to reports received from the EFIB search team. Marvasti's vita (see above) shows that he held a visiting position

at ECU. Another reader points out that the EFIB search team reported that Marvasti went to Pomona College on a visiting line because of internal political difficulties he was having at the University of Houston, Downtown. Our investigators were told that Marvasti lost his UH “protector” and felt it necessary to move to another institution until he could leave UH permanently. USM offered Marvasti that chance.