

Special Report

ECO's "Backdoor" Comeback

An Investigative Series on the Use of the CoB for Personal Gain

The combination of Franklin Mixon's recent resignation and the rise in prominence of the research records of Jon Carr (MGT), Fujun Lai (MIS), and Talai Osmonbekov (MKT) places the CoB's economics unit at, or near, the bottom of the CoB's research credentials ladder. Whether or not George Carter, the EFIB chair, can lead economics back up that ladder remains to be seen. What is becoming evident, though, is that the economists are putting together a plan that may get them started up that path. That plan involves use of the 2007-08 journal ranking process, headed by assistant professor of economics, Sami Dakhliya. Sources tell usmnews.net that Dakhliya is putting together a ranking of economics journals that will improve the standing of economics relative to the rest of the CoB. Details on how that will work are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1
How the 2007-08 Journal Rankings will "Improve" ECO

<u>ECO Faculty</u>	<u>#As Old Ranking</u>	<u>#As New Ranking</u>
Carter, George	0	0
Dakhliya, Sami	3	4
Doty, Susan	0	0
Green, Trellis	1	3
Gunther, William	2	2
Klinedinst, Mark	3	3
Marvasti, Akbar	2	3
Monchuk, Daniel	0	0
Niroomand, Farhang	1	2 [3]
Nissan, Edward	6	7
	18	24 [25]

Sources: SEDONA, EBSCOhost, etc.

Based on information from the Journal Ranking Committee, the 10 remaining CoB economists will have produced **24 or 25 A-level journal publications** when the new journal rankings are put forward for the CoB's consideration. That is up by **6 to 7** from the previous total of 18, using the CoB's original journal rankings, from this same group of individuals, representing **33.3 to 38.9 percent increase**.

Though none of the economists sees his/her A-level production fall off any from the original list to the new list – a result not at all surprising – the gains are not distributed equally. Of course, Dakhliya's A-level production rises by **25 percent** (from 3 to 4), and the CoB's other favored prof, Akbar Marvasti, also realizes a **33.3 percent** increase (from 2 to 3) in the number of A-level journal articles. Not to be left out, and he never is, former Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand's A-level list will grow by **100 to 200 percent** (from 1 to 2 or 3), depending on the final ranking product that emerges in spring of 2008. Associate professor Trellis Green should also see a similar gain. Dakhliya's ranking efforts even managed to squeeze out an additional A-level publication for

Edward Nissan, whose total increases by a non-trivial **16.7 percent** (from 6 to 7). Left out in the cold from this process are Carter, and the Director of the CoB's Center for Economic Education, Susan Doty, who has produced as many A-level journal publications as Carter, using either list (old or new/proposed).

If what appears to be going on with the CoB's journal rankings is any indication, don't expect the CoB's economists to just sit by and watch all of the merit raise money get gobbled up by other units. Based on the information coming from sources, the economists will put up a fight, and a "backdoor" one if necessary.