

The price of Amanda's Chair

September 2006

Episode 1

Having been promoted to Senior Lecturer only two years earlier, I had been both surprised and gratified to be approached earlier in the year by another university with the offer of a Chair. After some deliberation and discussions with the relevant personnel in the department that made the offer I decided not to accept the post. However, their approach raised the possibility that I might be considered for a Chair at my own university. So I made an appointment to see the Dean of the Faculty to ask her what I needed to do in order to present a convincing case to the promotions committee.

The Dean was very encouraging. She said I had a good case: two sole authored books and nine published papers in the current RAE, 2 international lecture tours, membership of several national policy making committees, a great deal of teaching experience and administrative responsibilities. However, the one area in which I had a limited track record was the successful supervision of PhD students. Though I had been the supervisor of a few over several years, they had all endured personal crises and problematic life events that had resulted in their intercalation or withdrawal. As a result I had seen none through to completion.

Q1 What do you think about the Dean's assessment of the situation?

Q2 What should Amanda do now?

Episode 4

January 2007

Since Colin has been registered for the PhD we have had supervision meetings every 3-4 weeks I asked him to write the beginnings of a literature review and this was produced before Christmas to a high standa

Latest from Amanda:

- Am currently making case for Sara's CASE award as Karen and I have agreed (somewhat reluctantly) to supervise. She starts MA next week will have to pay upfront and of course if 1+3 Case is not funded will be doing MA rather than PhD she has bargained for...
- Karen is going to move in on a part time basis and guess what - her husband is coming too...he is looking for (academic) work so will not be out during the day...I think we all know there might be challenges so we are trying it for a few weeks to see how it works
- other 2 students seem to be relatively unproblematic...

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Team task

One the acetates provided please indicate

- 1. Issues that should be taken into account in admission of new doctoral students**
- 2. The main responsibilities of a main, or first, supervisor**