

31st & Pearl

Skip Hughes' Trap

The USMNEWS.net audio library received some new volumes recently. These came courtesy of new accounting director, Kirby E. "Skip" Hughes. I fully expect these volumes to be checked out regularly by USMNEWS.net reporters. They are full of juicy bits, and ones that will surely put more light on the administrative deficiencies that have been hounding USM for years and years.

The new Hughes volumes show a new CoB administrator who acts like those of old. Hughes debates the meaning of words like "must," especially when used in phrases like "faculty evaluations *must* be performed" between mid January and mid March of each year. Hughes also refuses, on the record no less, to commit to giving appropriate credit for A-level journal publications. He also refuses to properly correct evaluation omissions that he has direct knowledge about and opportunity to address.

When you listen to Hughes' own words, two thoughts come to mind. First, he was brought to the CoB by dean Lance Nail with a specific mission. That is to support an ongoing program of faculty harassment in the accounting area of the CoB. The second thought is that Hughes is essentially *unhirable* from here on. As word travels about what he is doing in USM's b-school, his ability to move will sink like the economy. He will go the way of most CoB administrators – straight to a rank-and-file faculty position in the CoB (though it may come with a nice office and lightened teaching load).

Yes, it may be difficult for editorialists to wrestle the Hughes tapes away from the news division in future weeks and months. Hopefully the reporting will be thorough, and we can provide some of the missing links through commentary from our end. USMNEWS.net readers continue to thirst for more on the ills of higher education administration.

31st & Pearl is a series housed at usmnews.net that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.