

# 31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl

## The Skip Hughes Train

It doesn't take a genius to understand that when USM hires from a place like LSU it's not getting the cream of the crop. No, it's more likely getting someone that those on the bayou would rather see gone anyway. That's why the new USMNEWS.net series about Skip Hughes' views is such a hit with USMNEWS.net readers. Reading Hughes' statements about accounting research and the appropriate research outlets for CoB accountants would be amusing if they weren't so real. Now, CoBers are stuck with yet another administrator cut from the same ol' George Carter-type nonsense cloth.

Who knows what happens now that CoBers have an administrator who is officially on record saying that *Enhancing Faculty Productivity* is worthless and to be ignored? They, the CoBers that is, are working for the same institution that is part of a Mississippi IHL that is now butchering the meaning of tenure, rewriting the rules so that it can take away the employment of tenured and non-tenured faculty on a moment's notice (if even that). Yes, the whole system of higher education is now gaining speed on the same track occupied by the Skip Hughes train. A head-on collision seems inevitable.

Where is all of this coming from? In my view it is administrative actions of the sort wrought on the CoB by the likes of Harold Doty, Farhang Niroomand, George Carter, and now Hughes – actions countenanced, if not promoted, by former USM president Shelby Thames, and current president Martha Saunders. When the rest of Mississippi looks around to assess the damage in the coming years, it has this Bermuda-like triangle of CoB and USM administrators to applaud for the damage.

There's nothing like a *public* race to the bottom. Unfortunately for the Pine Belt community, this one is being led by USM (now Tier 4), the supposed jewel of the area. All aboard the Skip Hughes train!

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