

A Voice of One?

More Questions About the 1-Oct-2010 Faculty Senate Meeting

The quote below comes from the final portion of the 1-Oct-2010 USM faculty senate meeting:

“The house is burning down, and we’re spending too much time on committee reports. Whereas today we should’ve debated . . . a fierce debate on what we want the administration to know.”

The faculty senator who produced the quote above is clearly frustrated with the lack of action the first two faculty senate meetings of 2010-11 have generated. The question now – is this faculty senator alone in being frustrated by the situation at USM? Regular readers of USMNEWS.net are aware of the situation . . . that since the fall of 2009 the Martha Saunders administration of USM has delivered almost 50 terminal contracts to tenured/tenure-track faculty in an effort to deal with about \$25 million in budget cuts. Little by little, the delivery of terminal contracts is shrinking the institution.

If you attended the 1-Oct-2010 USM faculty senate meeting you know that the frustration described above is felt by more than one faculty senator. In fact, at one point during the meeting a motion was made to go into executive session so that faculty senators could speak frankly about what is going on around the Hattiesburg and Long Beach campuses vis-à-vis the faculty terminations. Still, sources tell USMNEWS.net that the faculty senate is quickly losing its reputation with the USM faculty, and that some faculty are looking to the USM chapter of the AAUP to fill the void being left by the elected faculty representatives. If the faculty senate would like to avoid having its current skid continue, perhaps it should heed the words from the voice of one.