

## Administrative Bloat At USM

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Whenever I read about USM hiring another high-level administrator, I can't help thinking about a report in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. First: USM ([Southern Miss Now](#)) reporting the hire of another high-level administrator:

The University of Southern Mississippi Foundation has announced [Dr. Shannon Fleming](#) as its next Executive Director, effective June 3. In this role, Fleming will serve as the chief staff executive for the USM Foundation, in addition to serving as the director of development for the University, and will be responsible for the Foundation's strategic leadership, attainment of goals and objectives, coordination of fundraising activities and board management.

The Executive Director's position was recently re-created as a stand-alone role as part of the Foundation's five-year strategic plan. Bob Pierce, who has served as both the Executive Director of the Foundation and the Vice President for University Advancement since 2010 will continue in the Vice President's role with administrative responsibilities in the areas of the Foundation, the Southern Miss Alumni Association and the Office of University Communications....

“I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Southern Miss family and look forward to working diligently with Vice President Bob Pierce, the Advancement team, the Foundation Board of Directors and President Rodney Bennett to meet the mission of the University and its Foundation,” said Fleming.

We at usmnews.net have reported the [phenomenal growth](#) in [administrative costs](#). For [example](#):

Over the past [few years](#), Southern Miss has seen [explosive growth](#) in the number of administrators. As of 2009, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, reported that USM had one of the “biggest increases” in the nation in “growth in managers and support personnel relative to enrollment.”: 84%.