

Arkansas State Announcement Coming Soon

Local News Columnist Predicts a Hudson Victory

Roy Ockert, the editor emeritus of *The Jonesboro Sun*, [is predicting that](#) the Arkansas State University Board of Trustees will announce on 2-Mar-2012 its decision on the chancellorship of ASU. As Ockert wrote on 28-Feb-2012, “Arkansas State University’s Board of Trustees will meet Friday in Searcy and likely will name a new chancellor for the Jonesboro campus, probably from among three finalists who have ‘run the gauntlet’ of an advisory committee, campus visits and subsequent online evaluations.” After noting that *three finalists* visited the Jonesboro campus in Feb-2012, Ockert also indicated that interest in the hiring process has been lackluster at best. According to Ockert, “[u]nfortunately, the turnout wasn’t all that diverse and was disappointing in numbers. Most of those attending were members of the ASU staff, with a few faculty members here and there.”



Roy Ockert

Readers of USMNEWS.net are [following this story](#) with interest, given that Tim Hudson, the former USM provost and long-time USM administrator, is one of the three finalists. Hudson now holds a vice chancellor post in the Texas Tech University System. He joined the TTUS in July-2011, after a stint as president of the University of Houston-Victoria that was followed by a short stay in the UH System headquarters. These USMNEWS.net readers will be interested in Ockert’s view that Hudson will emerge victorious from this process. As Ockert writes:

“That said, two of the three finalists are now working in Texas, and based strictly on the campus forums, I’d say Hudson will be the choice. He drew the largest crowd and connected best of the three with those attending. He had two advantages. One was that his forum was held in the ballroom of the Cooper Alumni Center, which is smaller than the more impersonal Reng Student Center auditorium. The other advantage is that he apparently has more experience at this sort of process, having been a finalist for president or chancellor at five other institutions since January 2011. Hudson, whose degrees are in history and geography, also was a candidate to replace Welch at Henderson State University, but the board there decided to restart the search process without doing any interviews. It’s obvious that Hudson, who took his present position in 2010 after six years as president of the Houston-Victoria campus, is looking for the right opportunity.”

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that it seems clear that Ockert understands how things work at ASU and in Jonesboro. That stated, readers of USMNEWS.net might begin bracing for the announcement that Hudson will become the next chancellor of ASU. If accurate, members of the TTU family should perhaps come to grips with the idea that their system vice chancellor never wanted the position in Lubbock. Lastly, members of the ASU community might begin to contemplate whether Hudson *really* wants the job in Jonesboro. After all, he has been a finalist for the top post at *six* universities in the past 12 months.