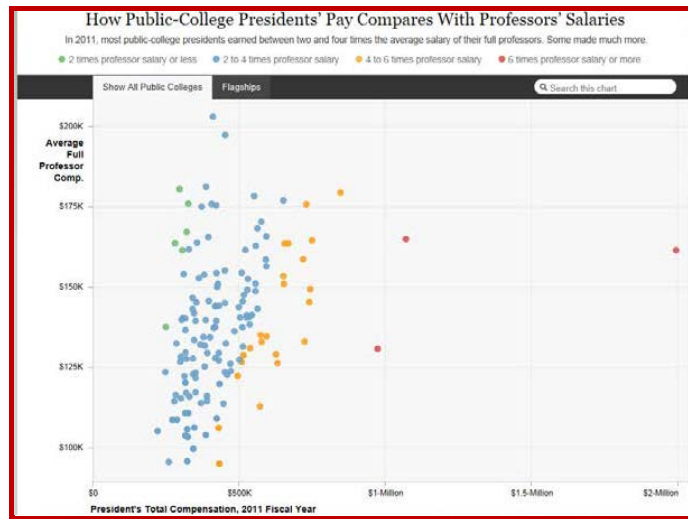


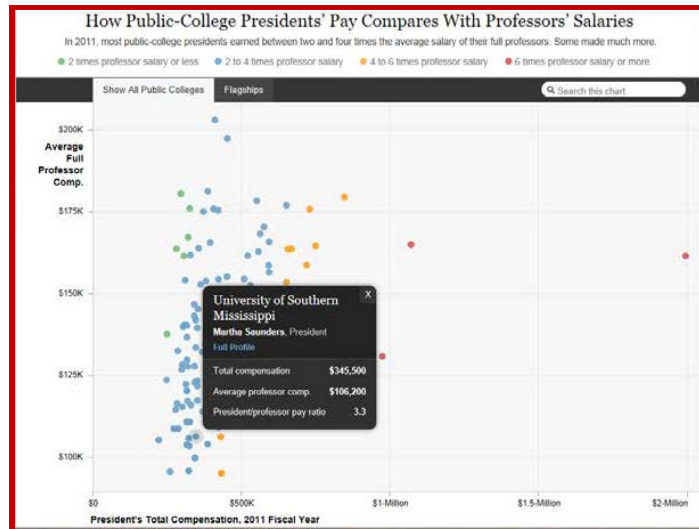
# At the Root of it All

## HOW MARTHA SAUNDERS' SALARY COMPARES TO JOHN Q PROF'S SALARY

What sources refer to as the recent meltdown of the Martha Saunders administration of USM has brought a large spotlight to all things USM these days. Higher ed's main publication, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, recently released the latest (2011) data on public university presidents' salaries and other information. As part of that release, TCHE produced the following chart:



As one can see there, the chart plot's each university president's salary against the average full professor's salary at his or her institution. The green points represent situations where the president is paid 2x or less what the average full prof earns. Blue dots show institutions where the president earns between 2x and 4x the average full prof. The gold points show 4x to 6x situations, and, finally, the few red points indicate >6x scenarios. One of those many dots above represents USM. See below:



USM's point lies just off the lower left-hand corner of the info box (surrounded by grey). The info box provides the critical details. It indicates that Saunders' \$345,500 annual salary is 3.3x that of the average full prof at USM. That full prof's salary is only \$106,200.

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that having a president earning approximately three and one-half as many dollars as the typical full professor is the root of many of USM's problems. In just the past few weeks and months the USM community has witnessed the salaries of Russ Willis, Gordon Cannon, Denis Wiesenburg, Chad Driskell, and Steven Moser – all USM administrators – shoot straight up to the stars. All of this occurred while USM faculty were fighting to maintain the status quo, which in some cases included their very jobs. By contrast, the University of Tennessee's chancellor earns \$500 per year less than Saunders and is paid only 2.6x the typical full prof there (in Knoxville). Additionally, the chancellor of UC-Los Angeles, one of the nation's finest educational institutions, earns only 2x the average prof. In fact, the Mississippi IHL could learn a lot from the UC System, which pays out the following chancellor-to-average full professor compensation ratios: UC-Santa Barbara (1.8x), UC-Riverside (1.9x), UC-Santa Cruz (1.9x), UC-Los Angeles (2x), UC-San Diego (2.1x), UC-Berkeley (2.3x), UC-Irvine (2.3x), and UC-Davis (2.4x). The range from a low of 1.8x to a high of only 2.4x, both well below what the IHL compensates Saunders. Among the many reasons the UC-System schools are so good is, perhaps, that their leaders care as much about their faculty as they do about themselves.