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Another \$17,000 for USM's Administration

HATTIESBURG – At its 17-March-2011 meeting, the Mississippi IHL [approved](#) a \$17,000 raise for Ann Parker Blackwell (pictured below), the interim dean of USM's College of Education & Psychology. The 12.6% raise, which takes Blackwell's salary from \$135,000 to \$152,000, is part of USM president Martha Saunders' decision, [announced](#) on 3-March-2011 via David Tisdale's USM presser, to remove the "interim" part of Blackwell's title.



The decision [to elevate](#) Blackwell's title and salary [continues](#) a trend by the Saunders administration [to favor](#), during hard economic times, USM [administrators](#) over USM's rank-and-file faculty. Recent [beneficiaries](#) of [this program](#) include new USM vice president for administrative affair Russ Willis (twice), [and new](#) USM administrators Elizabeth Payne and Jonathan Williams. Sources say that the Saunders administration's decisions vis-à-vis administrators' salaries/raises reminds one of the old bumper stickers that said, to paraphrase, *We heard there was a recession, but we decided not to participate*. Under Saunders, sources say that it seems USM administrators are becoming a special class of community citizens.