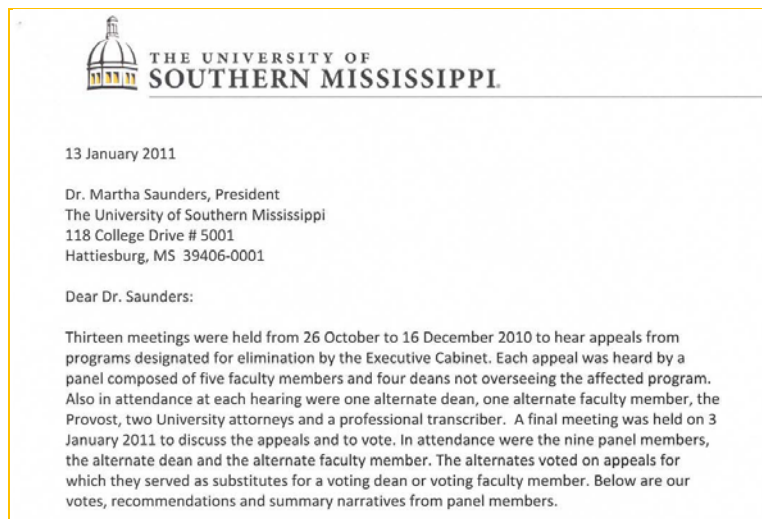


Appeals Committee Rejects Saunders' Cuts

HATTIESBURG – As *The Hattiesburg American* is [reporting](#), the nine-member appeals committee is supporting the reinstatement of 10 of the 28 academic program cuts put forward during Fall-2010 by USM president Martha Saunders. If saved, the reinstatement of the 10 programs would also save 15 tenured/tenure-track faculty who are currently slated for termination on 30-June-2011. *The Hattiesburg American* also reports that, if agreed to by Saunders, the appeals committee's decisions regarding academic programs would reduce the budget savings from the cuts only \$160,000, taking them from \$3.02 million to \$2.86 million.

The committee's report was addressed to Saunders on 13-Jan-2011, as the insert below indicates. The insert also indicates that the committee met on 13 occasions between 28-Oct-2010 and 16-Dec-2010 in order to discuss the 23 program appeals, and that a 14th meeting was held on 3-Jan-2011 to finalize the process.



Interestingly, the appeal of Saunders' decision to cut the M.A. in philosophy [was supported](#) by a 9-0 vote of the committee. Saunders' cut of the B.A. in religion was reversed, by a vote of 8-1, by the committee, as was the USM president's decision to discontinue offering Greek and Latin courses. That [vote was](#) 9-0 in support of the appeal. The committee's responses to these three appeals are inserted below.

Philosophy is a discipline that is vital for any comprehensive university. The faculty lines in question are associated mainly with the undergraduate course offerings in philosophy, rather than with the graduate degree that is targeted for elimination. To adequately support this important undergraduate program, the faculty lines should be maintained.

This relatively new degree program should be given an opportunity to develop. Beyond simply the number of majors and graduates, it is clear that knowledge and understanding of the world's religions and cultures is becoming ever more important in this age of globalization. Elimination of this program, which plays a vital role in USM's internationalization efforts, would severely curtail the opportunities of USM students to gain a global perspective.

A comprehensive university should include Latin and Greek as options for the study of language. Data on student credit hour production show that demand for Latin and Greek courses remains consistently high. Additionally, these courses are taken by students from a broad spectrum of majors.

In addition to the three cases above, the appeals committee voted (1) 9-0 in favor of the appeal to retain the CoAL's German courses, (2) 8-1 in support of the B.S. in instructional technology, (3) 5-4 to retain the B.A. in deaf education, (4) 9-0 to save the M.S. in psychiatric nursing practice, (5) 6-3 to retain the B.S. in recreation administration, (6) 9-0 in favor of reinstating the M.S. in engineering technology, (7) 9-0 in support of the appeal of the B.S. in marine science, and (8) 5-4 to save the M.S. in geology. In all, the nine-member appeals committee voted **86-13** in reversing the **11 cuts** detailed above that were put forward by Saunders during Fall-2010. Thus, the average vote in these 11 cases was **7.8** (in support of the appeal) to **1.2** (against the appeal). With this, USMNEWS.net sources are left wondering how Saunders can be seen as an effective president of the university when almost half of the appeals of her program cuts were supported on average, by **87%** of the nine-member USM panel that she appointed to hear the appeals.