

BREAKING NEWS BREAKING NEWS BREAKING NEWS BREAKING NEWS

CoB Being Overrun by Administration Spending

Note from the editor: please send any corrections or additional information to <mailto:marcdepree@gmail.com>. Such abusive administrative spending should be a matter of great concern to all faculty and students.

Sources are reporting that Kirby E. "Skip" Hughes, the CoB's School of Accountancy director since 2009, is being paid \$200,000 per year. Many recent reports about Hughes have indicated that he likely earned \$150,000, while a few speculated a salary range of \$150,000 to \$175,000. If reports are correct, not only is Hughes' USM salary greater than that of most academic deans, it exceeds the dean's level salary earned by interim CoB dean Alvin Williams in 2008 by some 14%. When Hughes' reported salary is combined with that of CoB dean Lance Nail, who sources say is a long-time Hughes friend, USM's E&G pot is encumbered by \$425,000. Note that this figure does not include the salary earned by new CoB accountant Michael Dugan, which sources have speculated is also in the \$150,000 to \$175,000 range. Given this recent revelation, one might consider increasing the estimate of Dugan's salary to \$175,000 to \$200,000 per year. At even the lower end, these three CoB friends (Dugan was Nail's accounting professor at the University of Alabama) are earning at least \$600,000 in salary alone. Another Nail friend, from back to Nail's days as finance chair at UAB, is professor Brian Lee, who was hired by Nail before 2009-10 to manage the new CoB Honors House. One would guess that Lee's salary ranges from \$100,000 to \$115,000 or \$125,000 per year. At the low end, the four CoB friends -- Nail, Hughes, Dugan, and Lee -- are raking in a combined \$700,000 per year in salary, if not more.

The salary drama doesn't end with the information above about Hughes. USMNEWS.net has also just learned that Nail has just hired another friend, James Tisdale, to serve the CoB dean as "director of external relations." Details on the job description are sketchy at this point, though it does sound like public relations work could be involved. Tisdale joins the CoB this year at a likely salary of \$90,000 per year (in a pure staff capacity). This brings the total to five CoB friends, earning a combined (at least) \$790,000 per year. When benefits are added, USM faces an annual bill that likely easily eclipses \$1 million. Long-time readers of USMNEWS.net will recall that the Martha Saunders administration terminated the employment of three tenured/tenure-track business faculty just a few short weeks ago. One of these is Kuo Lane Chen, whose current salary is *the same as* Tisdale's new annual check. Thus, the more details that emerge about USM's financials, the clearer the picture of an administration run amok becomes.