

Dugan to Direct CoB's MPA Program

HATTIESBURG – Reports coming into USMNEWS.net news offices indicate that newly hired professor of accounting Michael Dugan will assume the directorship of the CoB's MPA program beginning in 2010-11. A recent [. . . breaking news . . .](#) installment [reported](#) that the CoB's School of Accounting hired Dugan from the University of Alabama this spring (2010), and that he would be joining the CoB for 2010-11. A later *GH Chatter* issue then [stated](#) that Dugan (shown below) might also become the new MPA director.



Michael Dugan

These new reports put Dugan's starting salary at \$175,000 per year. He joins new CoB dean Lance Nail as a "high-dollar hire," given that Nail's starting salary, dating back to the summer of 2008, was \$225,000. If reports are accurate, this duo is earning a combined \$400,000 per year in salary alone, and with Dugan earning more than some USM deans. With Skip Hughes joining the mix as of 2009-10, the two accountants (Dugan and Hughes) and Nail will be bringing home well over \$500,000 (if not \$600,000) per year. A number of other CoB accountants are currently earning six-figure salaries, including Roderick Posey, Charles Jordan, Stanley Clark, and others. In fact, when these three are added to the Dugan-Hughes mix, the CoB is looking at a combined \$650,00-\$700,000 in salary alone (for only five accountants). Put Nail back into the group and the total is pushing \$1,000,000 per year, and for only six CoB faculty.

With \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 in budget cuts looming this year for USM, no one knows for sure how long salaries like these are sustainable. It is looking now, at least to some, that the CoB's fiscal situation resembles that of the federal government. Perhaps faculty furloughs will soon have to be put on the table, along with personnel reductions, by USM provost Robert Lyman. Sources say that it also looks now as if the Martha Saunders administration of USM allowed Nail to keep much of the salary savings that were achieved by forcing five senior economists to retire after 2009-10.

As the summer approaches, look for more details on USM's dire financial situation.