

Estes Named Interim VP for Finance and Admin

HATTIESBURG – At its 21-June-2012 monthly meeting, the Mississippi IHL Board brought USM *retiree* Thomas G. Estes back into the fold, this time as interim vice president for finance and administration. The insert below, taken from the IHL’s June-2012 Board Book, provides the details associated with this move.

USM (*Rehired Retiree on Employment Contract for FY 2012*)

Thomas G. Estes; *Interim* Vice President for Finance and Administration; salary of \$195,000 per annum pro rata; E&G Funds; effective June 18, 2012

As the insert above notes, Estes is coming back to USM at an annual salary of \$195,000, which became effective on 18-June-2012. USM [released this news](#) on 20-June-2012, via Jim Coll’s presser. In it, Coll indicates that *interim* president Aubrey Lucas announced this hire recently, a comment sources indicate awards Lucas with the interim president title more than one week before that particular title becomes official. At present, Martha Saunders is the USM president, while Lucas [holds the title](#) of executive transitional officer, a title whose compensation remains a mystery as of 21-June-2012, even though the IHL promised at its May-2012 meeting to release the details of Lucas’ compensation as ETO and interim president.

Coll’s presser also indicates that Estes held the USM title of VP for business and finance from 1976 through 1992, putting him squarely in the Lucas camp, given such a lengthy association with Lucas, who has held the USM presidency on two occasions in the past. In announcing the hire, Lucas told Coll, “[w]e are very fortunate to have Dr. Tom Estes coming back to assist our university as interim vice president for finance and administration. Dr. Estes is an alumnus who served us exceedingly well as a member of the faculty and as vice president for business and finance. He has made it clear he is not interested in the position on a permanent basis but is happy to assist us throughout the coming fiscal year.”

USM

Katherine Elizabeth Nugent, *from* Associate Dean, College of Health; Director, School of Nursing; and Professor of Nursing; salary of \$140,394 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; *to* Dean, College of Nursing, and Professor of Nursing; salary of \$170,000 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; *effective* July 1, 2012

In other USM-related personnel issues, the IHL also re-named Katherine Nugent’s position, changing it from *associate dean* of the *College of Health* and *director* of the *school* of nursing to *dean*

of the *College of Nursing*. These changes are shown in the insert above, which also indicates that Nugent's annual salary will, effective 1-July-2012, increase from \$140,394 to \$170,000. This change (\$29,606) increases Nugent's salary by a whopping 21.1%, representing yet another instance of administration growth at USM. As regular followers of USM are aware, this growth is due to USM's addition of another college (CoN), which will carry with it numerous other administration spending increases that are not covered here.