

## **BREAKING NEWS**

### **Jackson Lets It All Hang Out – CoB's Current Budget Situation Bad, Very Bad**

LONG BEACH – In a 26-Jan-09 e-mail to SAIS faculty, SAIS director Steven Jackson uncovered what was discussed at a day-long CoB management team meeting from the previous Friday, 23-Jan-09. And, Jackson's e-mail conveyed just how bad the CoB's budget situation is becoming. According to Jackson, for the remainder of the year (i.e., until 1-July-09), the CoB's overall budget is frozen. What does this mean for rank-and-file CoB faculty? Jackson's message cut right to the chase:

- an end to reimbursement of article submission fees
- an end to reimbursement of membership dues
- an end to reimbursement for conference travel
- an end to reimbursement for mileage between campuses for teaching
- the loss of the new line for accounting on the Coast
- the loss of James Henderson's faculty line in Hattiesburg
- fewer course sections, larger class sizes

To be sure, the current situation facing the CoB is a dire one. The inability to repay faculty for conference travel and journal submission fees will only hinder faculty productivity and worsen morale.<sup>1</sup> The fact that fewer course sections and larger class sizes face CoB students will only threaten the CoB's competitive position vis-à-vis institutions like Pearl River Community College and Jones County Junior College. The end to repayment for mileage between campuses only rubs salt in wounds, some of which are old.

Presumably, Jackson's e-mail instructs the SAIS on how the CoB is responding to the recent budget cut change – from a 2% cut to a 5% cut. When the CoB has to face what is being projected as a 10% budget cut for 2009-10, sources say that things in the CoB will become surreal. At that point CoB administrators will be looking to terminate telephone service, mailing privileges, information technology and teaching support, and beyond.

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<sup>1</sup> Sources tell USMNEWS.net that reimbursement for membership dues is a very controversial practice, and one that does not exist across much of the CoB. According to sources, this portion of Jackson's ominous e-mail speaks more about the "entitled attitude" of the CoB's accountants than anything else.