

## **Lucas and Pierce to Get \$370,000**

HATTIESBURG – This week the Mississippi IHL is officially appointing former Millsaps president Frances Lucas to the post of USM vice president and campus executive officer for the Gulf Coast campus. While this is not news to most in the USM community, what may be news is that Lucas' salary will be \$185,000 per year. Additionally, the IHL will be elevating Bob Pierce from acting vice president of advancement and executive director of the USM Foundation and the USM Alumni Association to vice president of advancement and executive director of the USM Foundation. The removal of *acting* from Pierce's title may come as a surprise to many USMers. And, Pierce's salary will be rising from \$104,200 per year to \$185,000 per year with this change in titles, representing a 77.5% increase.

Lucas' USM salary also means that the Lucases – Aubrey (Frances' father) and Frances – are clearing more than \$250,000 (in salary alone) per year from Mississippi taxpayers. Aubrey Lucas, the former USM president, now holds the dubious title *president emeritus*, and at last check was earning a salary of about \$75,000 per year and holding down one of the nicer office complexes on the Hattiesburg campus. Coupled with Pierce's amazing financial ascencion, these details will likely add to the belief held by some in the USM community that USM president Martha Saunders' primary concern is supporting her central administration with bloated salaries and/or fringes.