

Lyman in No Rush to Set Up Appeals Hearings

HATTIESBURG - As *The Hattiesburg American* higher education reporter Ed Kemp's 14-Sept-2010 [news story](#) about the USM budget crisis indicates, USM provost Robert Lyman has [joined the Martha Saunders administration chorus](#) by blaming (1) last year's (FY 2011) 10+ faculty terminations on the Academic Planning Group, and (2) this year's (FY 2012) nearly 30 faculty terminations on the University Priorities Committee. In speaking with Kemp, however, Lyman went much further than other USM officials by stating that the USM central administration is in no hurry to set up an appeals process wherein the 29 tenured/tenure-track faculty receiving terminal contracts two weeks ago can salvage their USM academic careers.

"The assumption was always that we would have an appeals process, so there was never any urgency in putting it together." Robert Lyman

Meanwhile, about 30 USM faculty, like Daniel Capper from [religion](#), are scrambling to prevent their academic careers from spiraling out of control. Capper has told local media on multiple occasions that his termination was a surprise and that he had no contingency plan. He recently told Kemp that he and other terminated faculty are left "guessing about what the [appeals] process will be like."



Lyman

John House, chair of USM's department of art and design, went much further than Capper. House questioned the data Lyman provided *The Hattiesburg American*, as well as Lyman's logic in presenting the USM administration's case to the public.