

Morgan Reassigned; Willis gets Big Raise

HATTIESBURG – In a move approved by the Mississippi IHL Board on 19-Aug-2010, outgoing USM chief financial officer, [Joe Morgan](#), has been [reassigned](#), effective 1-Sept-2010, by the Martha Saunders administration. In just a few days Morgan will become the new associate director for internal operations in the alumni affairs office at USM. Despite the significant demotion, the Saunders administration allowed Morgan, pictured below, to retain his CFO salary. Sources say this decision amounts to a significant raise for Morgan. Relatedly, USM's human resources director, Russ Willis, will become the interim CFO on 1-Sept-2010. In the process, Willis' salary will increase from \$93,450 per year to \$120,000 per year. This translates to a 28.4% annual raise for Willis, and it comes at a time when the institution is looking to cut \$15 million from its budget – a move that may result in the loss of 100 faculty.



The whole Willis-for-Morgan swap has been a [controversial chapter](#) in USM's 100-year history. At every turn in recent weeks and months, it appears to many in the USM community that the institution's administration class wins yet another lottery of sorts. The same will likely be said about this latest episode in the CFO saga.

In other Aug-2010 IHL news, USM football coach Larry Fedora was awarded a \$35,000 annual raise, to a new salary level of \$685,000 per year. Though not as hefty as Willis' raise, this 5.4% raise will likely make the new academic year seem sweeter in the Fedora home.