

## Shrinking Budget Feeding Growing Administration

HATTIESBURG – Even though the USM budget will shrink by somewhere between \$10 million and \$25 million by 2012, the Martha Saunders administration continues to grow at an alarming rate. Much of this growth has been covered by reports here at USMNEWS.net, and this particular report brings even more news on the *Saunders administration growth* front. In her 19-Jan-2011 presser entitled “Thinking Green Gets Even Brighter at Southern Miss,” USM public relations manager Beth Taylor informs the USM community that Jonathan Williams, pictured below, has become the new USM Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO). Williams comes to the CSO post from his current position as a visiting professor in USM’s College of Business.



**Jonathan Williams**

According to Taylor, Williams plans “to develop educational programming to prepare Southern Miss students for opportunities in the emerging ‘green industries,’” such as with companies that manufacture high-efficiency thin-film solar panels based on state-of-the-art materials and device technology. Williams explained to Taylor that “Southern Miss is in a unique place at a unique time. We can be at the forefront of the green industry; the perfect place at the perfect time with the vision to supply the south with necessary technical developments and graduates.” Williams also pointed out to Taylor that, even with a shrinking budget and plans to cut 28 existing academic programs such as philosophy and languages, curriculum expansions involving the CoB and CoST are on the horizon for USM. According to Williams, “[w]e plan to develop a curriculum that mixes the bio-sciences with business courses so that Southern Miss graduates are able to contribute to the bio-diesel industry which is locating to our state.”

Lastly, even Saunders weighed in on the recent hiring, saying “[w]e are fortunate to have someone of Jonathan’s caliber to lead our efforts . . . Southern Miss is leading the charge to the top in the area of environmental responsibility and sustainability.” Sources point out that, though USM may want to lead the way down the greener boulevard, its ability to pay for such an effort is a serious question in this “unique time” to which Edwards refers.