

## USM Faculty to Receive Merit, Equity Raises

HATTIESBURG – Less than one year after announcing that almost 30 USM faculty would be terminated in an effort to deal with massive budget cuts related to the sagging U.S. economy, USM president Martha Saunders recently announced that USM faculty are set to receive both merit and equity raises heading into the 2011-12 academic year. The text of Saunders' 7-July-2011 e-mail to the USM community announcing the raises is inserted below.

From: all-facstaff-bounces@usm.edu [all-facstaff-bounces@usm.edu] On Behalf Of USM Mailout [usmmailout@usm.edu]  
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 4:50 PM  
To: all-facstaff@usm.edu  
Subject: [All-facstaff] University Employee Merit and Equity Raises

I am pleased to inform you that the Executive Cabinet has approved a merit and equity pool to be distributed effective September 1. The hard work of our faculty, staff and administrators in finding efficiencies and permanent savings has made these much-needed salary adjustments possible. Worksheets will be distributed to deans and directors next week. Please accept my gratitude to all of you for your persistence, your patience and your dedication to Southern Miss.

Martha D. Saunders, President

As the e-mail above points out, Saunders' executive cabinet approved "a merit and equity [raise] pool" that Saunders indicates will be in effect by 1-Sept-2011. This week, 11-July-2011 through 15-July-2011, USM's department chairs will be complete merit and equity raise worksheets, and report them to their respective deans and directors.

Though little is now known about the size of these merit and equity raises at USM, sources tell USMNEWS.net that faculty, staff and administrators at most, if not all, of Mississippi's other seven public universities will likely be shocked to hear that USM is, *using state tax dollars*, providing *any* raises at this point during what Americans are calling The Great Recession. The national unemployment rate is again on the rise, and USM is less than one year away, as pointed out above, [from delivering almost 30](#) termination notices to tenured and tenure-track faculty. Sources [also indicate that](#) USM's psychology faculty will now see [their salaries rise](#) sharply, particularly during these down times.

Look for additional reports here at USMNEWS.net on this situation as more information is uncovered.