

## **USM to Cut more than \$4.9 Million during Fall 2009**

HATTIESBURG – USM Chief Financial Officer Joe Morgan has released the details of USM’s response to Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour’s call for state universities to slash their budgets. Those details (see [usm.edu/budget/](http://usm.edu/budget/)) indicate that USM will be cutting \$4,994,386 from its current budget during fall semester 2009. Excluded from these cuts are scholarships, waivers, contingencies and fixed costs, which are all being sheltered from budget cutting by the Martha Saunders administration. Although unfilled faculty/staff positions will likely be used to cover the more than \$4.9 million budget cut, USM officials have not decided how the cuts will be made on a department-by-department basis at this time.

The Saunders administration is already hinting at the possibility of a second mid-year cut in college and university budgets statewide. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that the Barbour administration is targeting education at the moment because college and university budgets have been funded at record high levels in recent years, while other statewide agencies have been suffering more from the down economy. The budget cuts reported by Morgan, and discussed above, were approved by the University in mid-September of 2009.

USM CFO Joe Morgan is the brother of CoB assistant professor of accounting Mary *Morgan* Anderson. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that this relationship has benefitted Anderson and the CoB’s accounting unit for years. As funds have run dry in Joseph Greene Hall, Anderson has reportedly been able to secure so-called “back door funding” for various projects through her brother, the USM CFO. Whether or not that relationship protects accounting during this particular academic year remains to be seen. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that any benefit that comes to CoB from this tie will most likely be confined to accounting. Some sources believe that CoB dean Lance Nail is “on the outs” with the Saunders administration at the moment.