

Provost Lyman Resigns; More to Follow?

HATTIESBURG – Late on 16-Nov-2011, USM public relations [officials announced](#) that USM provost Robert Lyman has resigned his administrative position and moved to the faculty ranks. Citing “personal reasons” for Lyman’s resignation, USM president Martha Saunders noted that Lyman helped move the academic side of the USM house through some rough times in recent years. Saunders also announced that new USM vice president for research, Denis Wiesenburg, would fill Lyman’s provost post on an interim basis, effective immediately, at least through the end of 2011-12.



Lyman

Saunders

Wiesenburg

Later on 16-Nov-2011, *The Hattiesburg American* [posted details](#) of Lyman’s resignation on its breaking news list, stating also that more details about Lyman’s resignation would be posted there on 17-Nov-2011. USM’s *The Student Printz* also [added to the story](#) on 17-Nov-2011, with Mary Margaret Halford and Jonathan Andrews’ report entitled “Lyman resigns as USM provost.” They report that Wiesenburg was approached by Saunders after Lyman resigned, and that Wiesenburg told Saunders that he “. . . would do whatever was needed of [him] for the university.”

Meanwhile, [faculty senate president](#) Timothy Rehner told Halford and Andrews of his “shock” at learning the news about Lyman. Rehner stated that “I was absolutely surprised . . . I don’t believe he [Lyman] expected to do this when he came to work this morning.” Rehner added that the transition to a permanent successor will be tough, and that Wiesenburg will have his hands full juggling both major positions for USM. Finally, though unconfirmed at this point, USMNEWS.net was also informed by a source on 16-Nov-2011 to expect a resignation from USM chief information officer Homer Coffman. Sources already tell USMNEWS.net that Rehner’s characterization of events suggests that Lyman did *not* actually *resign*, but was instead forced out by Saunders. If his “resignation” [is followed](#) by one from Coffman, concern [about leadership](#) at USM – something the faculty senate is now questioning – will begin to reach a boiling point.