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Tisdale Story Expanding

HATTIESBURG – The recent [news](#) that the Lance Nail administration of the CoB has hired James Tisdale, pictured below, to serve as the CoB's new "director of external relations" has some USM faculty upset about what is being done with the institution's existing budget in this time of crisis.



Reports are that Tisdale is now earning \$90,000 per year in salary alone, which is right at the salary being earned by MIS associate professor Kuo Lane Chen, who was recently terminated by the Martha Saunders administration. Now, however, we also know that Tisdale has been with USM since 2008, when he was hired as the College of Science and Technology's development officer. This information comes via Tara Burcham's 10-January-08 [USM presser](#), which also indicates that Tisdale's mother taught at USM for 20 years, and that his father has served on the USM Foundation Board.

Sources say this story appears to highlight an age-old phenomenon at USM – much of the institution's budget is used to employ relatives and associates of prominent Hattiesburg-area residents in various nice-paying staff positions. Now, with \$10 million having been cut for FY 2011, and \$15 million in cuts heading to FY 2012, this type of behavior is coming at a very high cost – more than 40 occupied tenure/tenure-track faculty lines since the cuts began in 2009. How many of these types of hires will satisfy the USM administration, which seems to know no bounds in this regard?