

# Bad Business?

The Mississippi IHL met earlier this month and finalized faculty sabbatical requests for the public universities it governs. As the data show, not a single CoBer will be taking a sabbatical during the 2010-11 academic year. Those USM faculty whose applications were approved are listed below:

*Table 1 – USM Sabbaticals, 2010-11*

Name	Area	E&G Funds Required
Bass, Joby	Geography & Geology	\$26,285
Ding, Jui	Mathematics	\$30,444
Franke, D.	English	\$21,346
Kolibal, J.	Mathematics	\$29,328
Miller, Mark	Geography & Geology	\$48,841
Moak, E.	Music	\$24,240
Scurfield, Ray	Social Work	\$32,009
Weinauer, E.	English	\$31,428

As the table above shows, eight USM faculty will be granted sabbatical leave during the 2010-11 academic year. None of these, however, is from the CoB. How far has research quality in the CoB fallen? Sources say that the CoB's absence from the table above is some indication.

Secondarily, three areas – English, Geography/Geology, and Mathematics – received multiple nods from USM administration. This may show where some of the priorities of the Martha Saunders administration will lie going forward. Also, the eight awards above total more than \$225,000. How can the university afford this type of expenditure during such a troubling budgetary situation? Pulling resources out of instruction, especially to this degree, during the current fiscal crisis may further raise the public's scrutiny of higher education in Mississippi.