

May 12, 2008

Dear USM News,

I appreciate in advance your willingness to post a concern about the recent push to "outsource" USM's physical plant operations. A proposal has been submitted by Aramark, the company that currently manages food service activities on campus, to assume responsibility for physical plant activities. I am told that reps from Johnson Controls EMS/Facilities were on campus recently to submit their own proposal.

Currently there is a lively discussion of this matter on the AAUP message board, and I invite your readers to go there and to participate if they have any relevant information. Some are reporting there that the plan is being pushed by USM Chief Financial Officer Joe Morgan, and that the Saunders administration is saying nothing about the situation, except to say "shut up" to those who question it. A physical plant staffer has posted that morale in the physical plant is dipping to new lows and that they feel they are being "sold down the river" by the Saunders administration. When it comes to speculation about Morgan's involvement, Mitch Berman and others have posted that Morgan is well-known around campus to be a big proponent of outsourcing the physical plant.

Thanks again for posting my concerns.

<name withheld>

*Editor's Note:* USM Chief Financial Officer, Joe Morgan, is the brother of CoB assistant professor of accounting, Mary Morgan Anderson.