

Dear USMNEWS,

I followed closely all of your reports and editorials during the previous calendar year, 2012. I can almost tick off all of the problems that existed last year without looking back over some of them. Here's a try:

- Head football coach Fedora leaves Southern Miss for North Carolina
- Athletic director Giannini resigns, seemingly forced out by President Saunders
- New coach Ellis Johnson signs sketchy letter of intent, approved by President Saunders
- New interim Athletic director Hammond makes \$1.5 million deficit public, blames Giannini
- IHL Board member Rouse works behind scenes to influence Saunders to not hire Hammond
- Public furor over AD budget deficit gets Hammond permanent AD job
- Saunders forced to resign by IHL Board, replaced on interim basis by Lucas
- Lucas signs sketchy contract awarded to new football coach Johnson
- Johnson goes winless (0-12), gets fired at end of season
- Public sector audit clears Giannini's name in AD deficit; AD deficit grows larger
- Sketchy contract means Southern Miss must pay Johnson \$2.1 million over next 3 years
- Hammond linked to Saunders in approving sketchy letter and contract for Johnson
- Johnson gets job at Auburn, paid \$0.8 million per year, yet still gets \$2.1 million from USM
- Saunders hired as provost by West Florida

Note that all of the problems listed above pertain to sports. As Saunders said at her forced resignation press conference, not everything is about athletics. This is true. There were many, many other problems not directly related to sports. Those aren't listed above. I think it's safe to say that, if you eliminate any year in which the institution dealt with major budget cuts or a natural disaster, the year 2012 was the worst year in the history of Southern Miss (1910-2012).

Thanks for listening.

[name withheld]