

*Dear usmnews.net*

Dear usmnews.net,

What's the word on Frances Lucas being pushed out as campus executive officer for the Coast? There has been a lot of speculation on both campuses that [Dr.] Bennett did not like the competition from [President-Emeritus] Aubrey Lucas' daughter.

Name withheld

Dear Name withheld,

Like many people all I know about Dr. Frances Lucas's removal from her position as executive office for the Coast is what I saw in [The Hattiesburg American](#). If the comments are correct, Dr. Lucas no longer has any administrative authority on Gulf Coast campus. According to a long time faculty quoted in THA's article "Almost all authority has been stripped from that position."

While your comments may contain some truth, I suspect there is something else going on. Every new administrator feels the obligation to make changes and spend our money. In case you didn't notice, Dr. Bennett plans on hiring two new associate deans and an associate provost. As of 2009, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that USM had one of the "[biggest increases](#)" in the nation in "growth in managers and support personnel relative to enrollment.": 84%. For details, including Dr. Bennett's additions to administrative bloat, search the term "bloat" in usmnews.net's Google™ search box.