

Dear usmnews.net

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Thanks for the report "[Downward Mobbing Now Part of USM's Fabric.](#)" I have also followed the [Feeling Safe at USM](#) series, which brings me to the point of this email. A few days ago, I was watching the webcast from Southern Miss. At the end of the PowerPoint, there was a question and answer period. One faculty member asked about six faculty suspensions from class this year without due process. According to Provost Lyman, there were **only** three suspensions this academic year and they were all based on reports of concerns about potential violence. Those weren't his exact words, but it certainly captures the spirit of Dr. Lyman's communications.

I find this very troubling as do many others. Claims of fear or danger lay a foundation for the perfect accusation. Not a shred of proof is required – just the words are enough. The unfortunate faculty member finds him or herself in the unenviable position of being isolated and without support. After all, who wants to be associated with a person whom the administration claims to be potentially "dangerous?" (Apparently, "Southern Miss" isn't terribly concerned about its reputation for having such bad employment practices that it hires numbers of potentially violent, dangerous faculty.)

I hear from enough people at "Southern Miss" to know that there are many very frightened faculty; but, they are not afraid of each other. They are afraid of what the administration is doing. For example, a few months or weeks before departments are slated to be closed down, favored faculty are transferred. I am told it has become gallows humor on campus that when you see someone in your department moved to a different department, start job hunting. Your department is about to be eliminated!

Keep up the good work.

Name withheld