

GH Chatter

Chatter from around campus has it that USM associate provost Bill Powell earned back some respect among the USM faculty for standing up to USM president Martha Saunders regarding Saunders' attempts to pin the blame for the 29 faculty terminations on the University Priorities Committee. How long this will last remains to be seen.

Recent reporting in *The Hattiesburg American* questioning the final budget cut choices made by the USM executive cabinet is generating a bit of chatter around campus. Word spreading across campus, reportedly originating from accounting, is that a CoB professor dared the USM administration to attempt to cut certain academic areas there, though it is not now known who this person is, or whether a lawsuit was threatened (there are stories on both sides). What is known is that the academic programs in question were not touched. Some are now saying that a third round of cuts, which many expect to hit next August, will be very contentious given this particular bit of chatter.

Stories circulating over the past two weeks suggest that USM president Martha Saunders accepted USM legal counsel Lee Gore's resignation recently. One would think that looking into this bit of chatter would be worth the time of an enterprising reporter with *The Student Printz*.

GH Chatter is a series at USMNEWS that provides a glimpse at what CoB students, and sometimes CoB faculty, are discussing throughout the corridors of Joseph Greene Hall and beyond.