

Is USM Turning to Speed Traps to Augment its Budget?

LOCAL NEWSPAPER PAINTS COMPELLING PICTURE

Edward Kemp's 21-Feb-2011 [report](#) for *The Hattiesburg American* entitled "USM traffic tickets up" paints a picture of a university that appears to be turning to speed traps and moving violations citations in order to augment its sagging budget. According to Kemp, the USMPD issued nearly 2,000 state and campus citations in 2010, with 1,257 for various moving violations. According to *THA*, these numbers are nearly 300% higher than those for 2009. Campus violators are fined \$50 each for their first two citations, and \$100 for third citation and each citation after the third.

Table 1: Campus Citations Revenue Scenarios

Year	# Campus Citations	All 1 st /2 nd Offenses	90% 1 st /2 nd Offenses	75% 1 st /2 nd Offenses
2009	31	\$1,550	\$1,705	\$1,938
2010	455	\$22,750	\$25,025	\$28,438

The campus citations revenue scenarios in Table 1 above indicate that USM may be adding up to \$26,000 to its annual budget by increasing moving violations citations issued to drivers in and around the borders of the Hattiesburg-based campus. This amount represents approximately the same figure that was added to USM interim-vice president for administrative affairs Russ Willis' \$93,450 salary on 1-Sept-2010, when Willis was "promoted" from human resources director to human resources director *and* interim-chief financial officer. On that day (1-Sept-2010), Willis' USM salary became \$120,000, or \$26,550 more than what it was on the previous day (31-Aug-2010).

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that, although the monies that are raised from additional campus speeding tickets, etc., may not amount to a significant sum relative to the institution's overall budget, they will help generate a material total when added to all of the other "little extras" that are, and will be, popping up around campus. Keeping up with all of the "little extras" (e.g., increased fees associated with parking privileges), however, may be an impossible task for members of the USM community/family.