

# Now Bloating

## A LOOK AT ADMINISTRATIVE HIRING AT USM

With all of the turmoil at USM leading up to and in the wake of [the sudden resignation](#) of USM president Martha Saunders, USMNEWS.net is taking a look at the types of job announcements emanating from USM during the spring semester of 2012. A listing of these is shown in Table 1 below:

*Table 1*  
*Administrative Job Openings at USM*

Job Opening	Date Listed	Department
Director, Union & Programs	7-May-2012	University Union
Associate Dean of Students	27-Apr-2012	Dean of Students
Associate Dean for Research Serv	27-Feb-2012	USM Libraries
Assistant VP for Research	13-Feb-2012	VP for Research
VP of Finance and Administration	27-Jan-2012	Office of President

Members of the USM community will likely be interested in the final entry of Table 1. It appears to be an advertisement to fill the vacancy created by [the resignation of Russ Willis](#), who held the VP for administrative affairs [position](#) before [joining](#) the USM Foundation (in early 2012). Sources note that from the looks of the fifth entry in Table 1, the Saunders administration has once again changed the title of a VP-level administrative position. Prior to Willis' ascendancy [to VPAA](#), he held, on an interim basis, the position of [chief financial officer](#) (CFO) of USM. That position was [vacated during](#) the summer of 2010 [by](#) Joseph Morgan. During the Shelby Thames administration (2002-07), USM maintained something akin to a vice president of financial affairs position. That was held by Gregg Lassen, who now holds [a similar post](#) at Lamar University. Lassen led the charge to privatize USM's food services and bookstore.

Members of the USM faculty have to be shaking their heads at the Table 1 information, some of which indicates that the Saunders administration was "spinning its wheels" weeks before the 27-April-2012 resignation of that administration's namesake. On the very day of that resignation, USM advertised for two mid-level administrative positions. About 2 weeks later the institution announced that in-state tuition would be increasing almost \$1,000 annually by the end of the 2013-14 academic year.