

## PAYING FIRED COACHES NOT TO WORK

A recent *Washington Post* article, "[College sports' fastest-rising expense: Paying coaches not to work](#)," highlights one of the many idiotic behaviors college administrators perpetrate.

"The University of Illinois paid fired football coach Ron Zook \$1.3 million while he spent a year trying a new career in banking and working on his water-skiing in Florida.

The University of California paid Jeff Tedford \$1.8 million while he took a year off and vacationed in New Zealand.

The University of Maryland paid Ralph Friedgen \$2 million while he tried out retirement, played a lot of golf and cruised the South Carolina coastline in his 24-foot whaler, "Fishing with the Fridge." "

If you think these are bad deals, take a look at Southern Miss' even more moronic participation in this nonsense. As USMNEWS.net has reported, it is customary for coaching contracts to contain buyout offsets to account for payments made when the coach obtains employment elsewhere. Such offsets apparently never crossed the minds of Southern Miss administrators including former president Martha Saunders and interim president Aubrey Lucas. The University of Southern Mississippi paid former head football coach Ellis Johnson [\\$2.1 million dollars](#) to buy out his contract. This multimillion dollar payment was made at the end of Johnson's first and only year at Southern Miss when the season ended with a 0-12 record. What made the payment even more galling is the fact that Johnson promptly took a job as defensive coordinator at Auburn University in Dec 2012, a position paying \$800,000 per year. Had Johnson's contract included a buyout offset, Southern Miss would have owed nothing since Johnson's firing and move to Auburn resulted in a \$100,000 pay raise.