

## Lee Gore -- Martha Saunders' Assistant But for how long?

As previously reported by usmnews.net, Lee P. Gore, former University Counsel at Southern Miss, and former General Counsel at the University of West Florida was **out as General Counsel at UWF** .

According to [Jesse Farthing](#), reporter for Rick's Blog, "Lee Gore, who was heading up the University of West Florida Office of the General Counsel, has been terminated from that position, as of Oct. 31, 2013 for failing to become a member of the Florida Bar before his contractual deadline for doing so was up." Farthing reported, and usmnews.net confirmed, Gore was identified as assistant to the provost, effective 1-Nov 2013.

As previously reported, the Florida Bar [began an investigation of Gore](#) in the wake of allegations he had been practicing law in the state without benefit of a license. According to Farthing, even though there was an ongoing investigation, Gore served in the Office of the General Counsel until last week under the title "Special Assistant to the President."

The Voyager, student newspaper for UWF [took a slightly different spin](#) with a strongly worded headline: "Gore Fails Bar, terminated as University Counsel." However, according to the Voyager, the termination as University Counsel did not end his affiliation with UWF. "Gore is still an active member of the UWF staff, and has been placed within a different division of the university. Gore accepted the position of assistant to the Provost within the Division of Academic Affairs on Nov. 1."

As previously reported, the current Provost at UWF is Martha Saunders, former president at Southern Miss. The Voyager acknowledged "Gore had worked with Provost Martha Saunders when Saunders was president of the University of Southern Mississippi."

The paper went on to explain "Saunders said that their prior working experience will come as a benefit as Gore transitions into his new position. 'A prior working relationship reduces the learning curve that usually has to be addressed,' Saunders said. 'We communicate well.'"

Sounds like Saunders is happy to be working closely with her old colleague, Lee Gore. Well, it only sounds that way. Take a look at the letter signed by Saunders which "communicated" the University's and her future relationship with Gore. ([Click here](#) for a copy of the complete letter.)

I am pleased to offer you a 90-day temporary assignment as Assistant to the Provost beginning November 1, 2013 and ending January 29, 2014. You will report directly to me. The annual salary for this position will be \$123,400.

You read it right. Saunders and UWF offered [and Gore accepted] a “90-day temporary assignment as Assistant to the Provost beginning November 1, 2013 and ending January 29, 2014.” As one commenter observed, it’s a good thing Lee didn’t need a “learning curve” because he was not going to have much time to learn anything.” As for communicating, it looks like he wasn’t going to have time to talk about much except emptying his office and moving back to Hattiesburg, or wherever.

Of course, this would not be the first time Saunders replaced Gore with a new University Counsel while leaving him in a short term, make-work position. On October 20, 2010, before Saunders was forced out as President of Southern Miss, , [USM reported](#) “Jon Mark Weathers, former district attorney for the Twelfth Judicial District, will join The University of Southern Mississippi as university counsel beginning Nov. 15, President Martha Saunders announced today... Weathers succeeds **current university counsel Lee Gore** who will officially retire Jan. 31, 2011, after leading the university’s legal office for 20 years.” (Emphasis added.). See also, [IHL Board Book](#), pdf, page 20, document page 13.) In short, Gore was out as University Counsel in November 15, 2010, but still drew a paycheck from Southern Miss for until January 31, 2011.

Readers have told usmnews.net to expect Lee and Martha to continue to waste taxpayer and student resources as they are pushed from one university to the next.