

Perks for Buds Part II

For a long time, first term summer classes were “reserved” for the British Studies gang. This allowed them to double dip by receiving their full summer pay for teaching here, then getting the compensation for British Studies (flights, room, per diem, and a stipend) as well in the same time period as the USM summer term. Sometimes administrators made the trip. They never had to take leave time or vacation time. Why is that? Aren’t they away from their desk, unavailable to sign forms, and not there to answer questions or consult with faculty, staff, and students? The cover story fiction was they could be called (long distance international day rate charges). While this may be far less of an issue now, let’s remember until recently cell phones and email were not in use. Now it is better, but the administrators are still absent from their jobs and getting paid like they were here in Hattiesburg. The study abroad programs – especially the British Studies program – have their tentacles wide and deep into the workings of USM. For all the selling points to the graduate and undergraduate students (great resume item, international experience, broaden your educational background) it is still thought of by the students as a pub crawl in London for four or five weeks, for six hours of academic credit, and no one can possibly fail. Party . . . To the top!