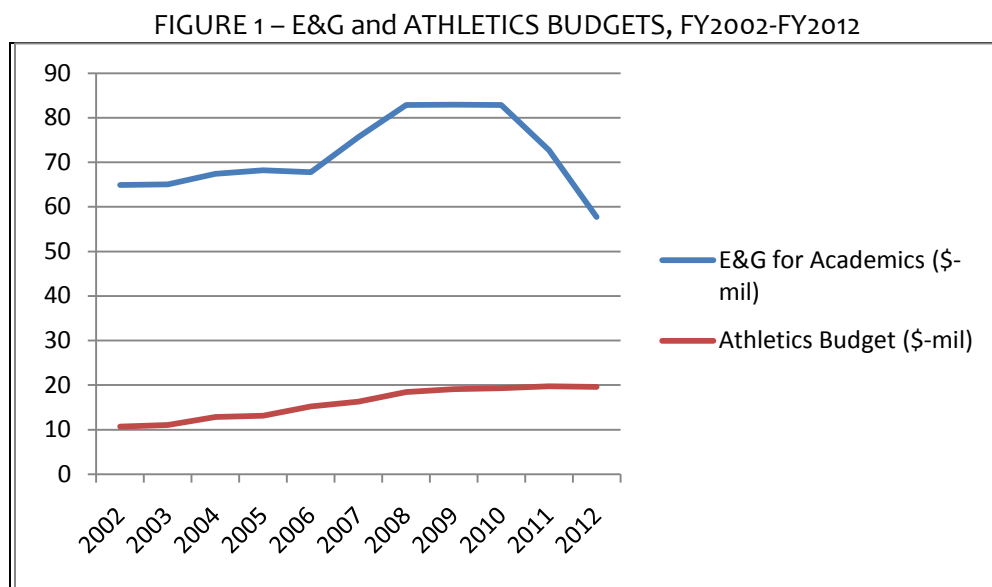


# Pride and Priorities

Many in the USM family are now angered by the Martha Saunders administration's plan to adjust to the recent E&G (state funding) cut of \$15 million (for FY 2012). That plan – (1) to eliminate 29 tenured and tenure track faculty, (2) institute a one day per month employee furlough, and (3) establish a massive retirement incentive program – runs contrary to those of the state's seven other public institutions, none of which reportedly will be terminating faculty. At the same time USM's FY 2011 and FY 2012 E&G packages have taken, or soon will have taken, massive hits, reports are that Richard Giannini's athletics department has seen its budget increase, even if only modestly.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 1 below examines what has happened to USM's (1) E&G funding (for academics), and (2) athletics budgets, both from FY 2002 through FY 2012.<sup>2</sup>



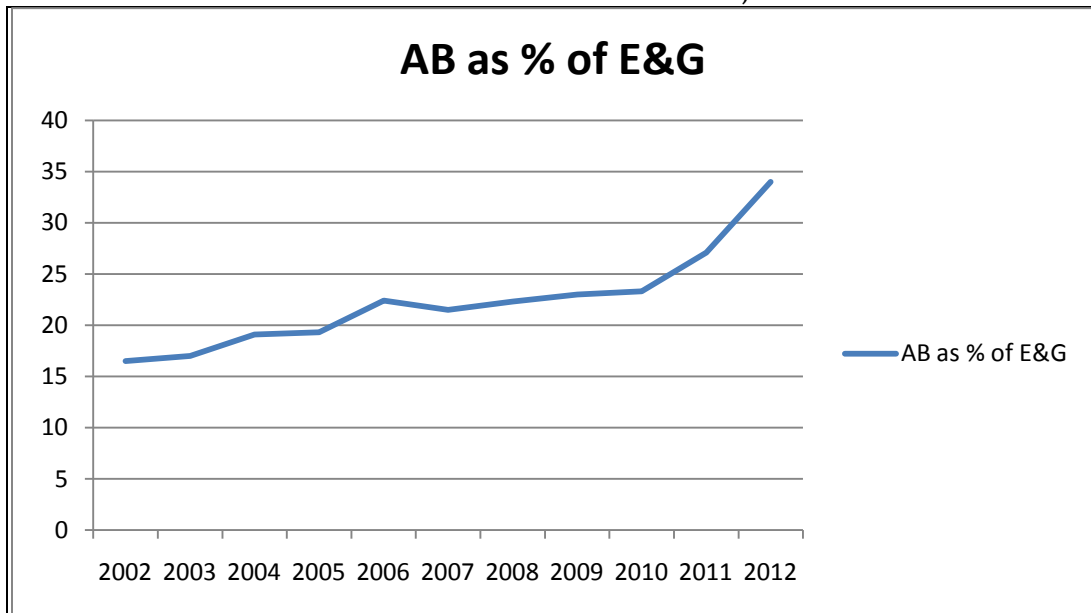
As the figure above indicates, USM's E&G allocation for academics generally rose from FY 2002 through FY 2006, though relatively modestly. Then, in FY 2007 and FY 2008, it jumped substantially. After leveling off in FY 2009 and FY 2010, it took major hits in FY 2011 and FY 2012, the only real declines in the series. On the athletics side, there has generally been a steady increase from FY 2002 through FY 2012. This juxtaposition is exactly what has many in the USM community disgruntled.

Figure 2 looks at the situation in a different way. It shows the institution's athletics budget as a percentage of the institution's E&G allocation (for academics), again from FY 2002 through FY 2012. Only once in the series – from FY 2006 to FY 2007 – did the percentage represented in Figure 2 decrease. The increases in the athletics budget as a percentage of E&G support in FY 2011 and FY 2012 have been astounding, as the figure below makes clear. When the FY 2013 projections of another \$10 million E&G cut are incorporated a year from now, the trend in Figure 2 will end even more dramatically. The FY 2013 result in this series will come to be something close to 50%, a figure that will likely lead to a faculty revolt on the Hattiesburg campus.

<sup>1</sup> The vast majority of the athletics budget at USM is not part of the E&G allocation.

<sup>2</sup> The FY 2012 figures are based on current projections from USM and the IHL.

FIGURE 2 – ATHLETICS BUDGETS as a % of E&G, FY2002-FY2012



The reaction of the USM community to the events of recent days and weeks continues to play out. Currently, several of the 29 eliminated faculty are planning and preparing for their appeals hearings before the USM central administration. Given that more than \$6 million of the \$15 million FY 2012 cut is planned to arrive from the furlough and retirement programs, sources say that it is not likely that these appeals will meet with much success.