

Robinson Contradicts Lucas on Search Deadline

In their 6-Sept-2012 [story for *The Student Printz*](#) entitled “. . . Lucas says ‘hello’,” Mary Margaret Halford and Tyler Hill report that “[USM interim president Aubrey] Lucas said when he was first approached about the [interim president] position in the spring [of 2012], the timeline for hiring a new president [to replace former USM president Martha Saunders] was still under discussion, but the goal was Jan. 1[, 2013].” In their interview of Lucas for their 6-Sept-2012 *TSP* story, the two reporters note that Lucas reiterated his confidence in that particular deadline by stating, “We were looking at January 1[, 2013,] before, and we’re still hoping that’s what we’ll be able to do.”



Aubrey Lucas

One day later, on 7-Sept-2012, however, IHL Board member Robin Robinson, the chair of the search committee to replace Saunders, informed the USM faculty senate that a January 1, 2013 deadline was just *that* – dead. [According to *The Hattiesburg American's* Ed Kemp](#), the higher education reporter assigned to cover the 7-Sept-2012 USM faculty senate meeting, Robinson told USM faculty senators that the presidential search will likely not be completed by January 1, 2013. As Robinson stated, “[m]y expectation is that it will be [completed] in March [of 2013].” Sources tell USMNEWS.net that an expectation of a March conclusion will quite possibly mean that completion will occur no earlier than May, and that the new president will not be named until three to five months beyond the original deadline of January-2013, if even then. Whether the search concludes in March or May (of 2013) will not likely assuage the doubt and suspicion that Robinson’s contradiction of Lucas has likely created within the USM family.