

# Sharing the Pain?

## How USM's Budget Cuts Hit its Five Academic Colleges

In his [13-August-09 report](#) for *The Hattiesburg American* entitled "USM budget Cuts: All 5 colleges may be hit," *THA* reporter Tim Doherty discovered just how much money will be cut by each of the five academic colleges at USM. The data uncovered by Doherty are detailed below in Table 1.

Table 1 – USM Budget Cuts by College

USM College	# Specific Cuts	Estimated Cost Savings
Arts & Letters	--	\$960,000
Business	3	\$1,300,000
Education & Psychology	18	\$1,100,000
Health	7	\$816,000
Science & Technology	12	\$400,000

According to Doherty, well over 40 specific cuts were recommended by the five academic deans, totaling more than \$4.5 million. At \$1.3 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, the CoB and CoEP lead the way in terms of funds being cut, while CoEP and CoST appear to be #s 1 and 2 with regard to the number of specific cuts being recommended. The dollar figures leaders found by Doherty (CoB and CoEP) are consistent with what can be found in detailed analyses by USMNEWS.net staffers in recent days.

As reported recently by USMNEWS.net, the CoB is set to lose three economics programs and 9 tenured/tenure-track faculty. These cuts alone account for about \$1 million of the estimated \$1.3 million savings in the CoB, with the rest coming from consolidation of the finance major and the dissolution of the month-old Department of Business Economics and Decision Sciences (BEDS). Responding to criticisms from some quarters about the recommendation to cut the economics programs, CoB dean Lance Nail told Doherty "[o]bviously, people are not happy when their job is eliminated, but we have to be responsible stewards of the taxpayers' and students' tuition dollars." Of course, this comment will not quell debates on the matter, as indicated by the online comments by Tommy Tucker, Lamar Covington and "Anguslordie" (see below) that can be found along with Doherty's report on *THA*'s website.

**TommyTucker** wrote:

Universities have to do and should do, just like the rest of us, if the money is not there, CUT BACK and the cuts have to come somewhere. The less desirable, less needy and less productive go first. Its the "rule of the jungle" and all government agencies need to be subjected to the same economic rules that the rest of us are having to incorporate into our lives. There cannot be a bunch of government "sacred cows" or the rest of us are going to pay dearly for protecting something that is in reality a poor value. These universities have pushed very hard for more \$\$\$\$ over the past few decades without really providing a good product in many cases and now the chickens are coming home to roost.

8/13/2009 9:37:07 AM

**LamarCovington** wrote:

If I understand the article, economics will still be taught as it is a must for a business degree, but the economics degree program will be eliminated--10 graduates in the last 3 years. Seems like a logical decision.

8/13/2009 8:18:46 AM

**Anguslordie** wrote:

Mr. Nall is being disingenuous at best. Hundreds of students take economics classes every year. I would like to know who will teach econ--which is, as far as I know, the basis of business and finance--once all the professors are gone.

8/13/2009 7:19:15 AM