

Some Editorial Thoughts Concerning Administrative Bloat

Over the past few days, and throughout much of its history, usmnews.net has published a number of reports concerning possible administrative bloat at Southern Miss. Recently, Benjamin Ginsberg published an excellent book, [*The Fall of the Faculty: The Rise of the All-Administrative University and Why It Matters*](#) (Oxford University Press, 2011). In a [*Chronicle of Higher Education*](#) interview Mr. Ginsburg advanced the argument "...that universities have shifted their resources and attention away from teaching and research in order to feed a cadre of administrators who, he says, do little to advance the central mission of universities and serve chiefly to inflate their own sense of importance by increasing the number of people who report to them...."

Over the past few years, Southern Miss has seen explosive growth in the number of [*administrators*](#). As of 2009, the [*Chronicle of Higher Education*](#), reported that USM had one of the "biggest increases" in the nation in "growth in managers and support personnel relative to enrollment.": 84%.

In an increasingly toxic environment, over recent years, Southern Miss has seen whole departments dismantled (e.g., Economics and Management Information Systems in the College of Business, alone) and faculty almost routinely accused of being [*dangerous*](#). **However, it may be that the real danger to the University of Southern Mississippi is the seemingly ever-growing administration and staff that depletes resources better spent on students and research.**