

Special Report

USM Still Filling Questionable Positions

Recent Openings Create New Budget-Related Questions

Even though USM is currently operating on a budget that is \$10 million less than last year's, and is planning for a budget next year that will be \$15 million less than this year's, a number of hires are still being made on the Hattiesburg and Long Beach campuses. Table 1 below shows just three of those positions one might characterize as questionable.

Table 1 – Sampling of Questionable Positions

Posting Number	Job Title	Posting Date	Closing Date	Brief Description
0001612	Assistant Athletics Director for Sports Technology	9-16-2010	Open until filled	Directs video taping of games and practices
0001566	Marketing Specialist – Career Services	8-18-2010	Open until filled	Works to increase services provided by office
0001526	Multimedia Services Manager -- Athletics	7-21-2010	Open until filled	Oversees maintenance of athletics website

The information in Table 1 is likely to disturb many USM faculty members, who have seen their ranks fall by a few dozen tenured/tenure-track faculty since 2009. First, the USM athletics department is still hiring for positions like "Multimedia Services Manager" and "Assistant Athletics Director for Sports Technology." Many, if not most, USM faculty are under the impression that the athletics department has outsourced tasks described in the "Brief Description" portion of Table 1 above for the multimedia services position. Also, the idea that athletics administration is continuing to thrive in the face of what the Martha Saunders administration has conveyed about the division's budget being cut will also likely cause consternation among faculty ranks. Second, the need for a "Marketing Specialist" in Career Services seems, to sources, to be highly questionable. Many are coming to believe that "marketing" and related promotional activities are consuming more and more of the institution's overall budget.

The posting dates for these positions begin in late July-2010 and continue through the middle of September-2010. Looking at these dates, and the other information in Table 1 above, one would hardly believe USM is going through a financial crisis.