

The CoB has Dugan by the Horne

The Story Behind Dugan's Hiring Keeps Shifting, While Dugan's Job Keeps Morphing

With its 11-May-2010 [press release](#) entitled "Dugan to Join School of Accountancy Faculty in Fall," the USM public relations team is late to the party. News of Michael Dugan's imminent arrival has been circulating around campus for weeks now, and USMNEWS.net has reported on the story several times to date. However, the details surrounding the CoB's [recent hiring](#) of the University of Alabama accountant seem to have a limited shelf life. USM PR official Van Arnold juggled the specifics of the Dugan hire even further (in the recent presser), so that USM faculty likely have renewed interest in the controversial affair.



Michael Dugan

According to Arnold, the 52 year old Dugan is set to join the CoB in fall 2010 as its new *Horne Distinguished Professor of Accounting*, a post some have [speculated](#) Dugan would hold. This new position was, as new SoA director Skip Hughes points out (via Arnold's release), created in 2009 by a financial contribution to the USM Foundation by the Horne CPA Group. CoB dean Lance Nail also points out that Dugan was his (Nail's) accounting professor years ago while Nail was a student at the University of Alabama. According to Nail, "Mike Dugan is undoubtedly one of the most caring, beloved and respected accounting professors in the nation. . . . Mike takes the time to get to know his students and genuinely cares about them as students and as individuals." Hughes added that "Mike is the consummate caring professor, dedicated not only to student learning, but also to enabling students to successfully commence their accounting careers upon graduation." According to sources, these comments make it appear as though Dugan is setting up shop in the CoB Honors House, not its SoA. With these quotes, sources say that Nail and Hughes are obviously attempting to mitigate some of the [bad press](#) that Dugan's hiring has generated, especially in light of USM potentially losing 100 current faculty due to a pending budget cut of upwards of \$20 million. Meanwhile, Dugan told Arnold that he ". . . look[s] forward to the opportunity to contribute to the teaching, research and service missions of the School of Accountancy at USM." With no mention of contributing to administration, as [prior reports indicated](#) would occur through Dugan's placement as the SoA's *new* MPA director, the USM community is once again in the proverbial dark about what is going on behind closed (administration) doors at the institution. In either case (i.e., *Horne Prof* not director, or not *Horne Prof* director), Dugan stands to garner about \$150,000 per year in salary alone, if not more. When added to his potential state retirement take from Alabama, Dugan could begin banking well over \$200,000 per year in Sept-2010. Watching the CoB add big-timers while loyal, veteran USM employees are terminated is wearing thin around campus.