

The Farm

News Briefs from Southern Miss

15-December-2011

USMNEWS.net Source Says Brooks Moore is Next Administrator Out

A USMNEWS.net source recently indicated to USMNEWS.net that another high-level USM administrator may be headed out of the revolving administration door at USM as early as 16-Dec-2011. That tip refers to USM's associate dean of students, Brooks Moore.



Brooks Moore

Moore [was hired as](#) USM's associate dean of students in late Jan-2009, about 2.5 years into the Martha Saunders administration (2007-present). That central administration post is supervisory to the SGA, student judicial services, and the tradition and spirit programs. At the time of his hiring in Jan-2009, Moore, a USM alum, called the opportunity "a dream come true."

Although it is not now known what may be prompting Moore's departure, assuming such comes to fruition, USMNEWS.net will be on top of this story as it develops further. What Moore accomplished as a USM student in the 1990s – honors college student, SGA president, Mr. USM, student hall of fame – goes well beyond anything Saunders is remembered for during her days at USM in the 1960s. Thus, any attempt to toss Moore under a proverbial bus could backfire in a major way.

Welch to Saunders: Hire Anderson or Else

According to Patrick Magee's 14-Dec-2011 [report for](#) *The Hattiesburg American*, USM sports backer [Nick Welch](#) wants the Martha Saunders administration to hire current USM offensive coordinator Blake Anderson to replace outgoing head coach Larry Fedora, or else Welch will consider withdrawing his financial support for the institution. Welch, a businessman in Laurel, is one of 146 members of USM's Circle of Champions, a group of supporters whose membership is contingent upon having donated at least \$100,000 to USM. Magee reports that Welch, who played a key role in bringing Fedora to USM from Oklahoma State, ". . . may re-think his financial involvement in the school's athletic department if Anderson isn't hired."

Welch tells Magee that he (Welch) has spoken to as many as 30 CoC members, and all of them support Anderson's selection as Fedora's successor. Though it is not known if these CoC members would also consider withdrawing their financial support should Saunders hire someone other than Anderson, the tone of Welch's comments to Magee seems to suggest that such is possible. In all, these 31 (including Welch) CoC members have donated *at least* \$3.1 million to USM over the years, and possibly much more.