

The Joe Morgan Resignation – What They’re Saying

As one might imagine, the resignation of USM chief financial officer is a popular water cooler topic these days. Below is a sample of what USMNEWS.net readers and others are saying about it:

“As [USM president Martha] Saunders learns what the investigators are learning [about Pinion [Properties], for example], she is taking action that must be revealed at some point in time . . . [and s]he's staying one step ahead of news releases of bad news . . . I assume she has access to information to do that.”

“This suggests that [Morgan] is leaving [the CFO position] without getting his 25 years in [at USM]. They have been saying [it has been] nearly 20 years since he was appointed as interim director by [then-USM president Shelby] Thames in 2006.”

“If there really is something sketchy going with [Morgan's resignation], then it is a major blow right in the center of a 'USM family' with all the people with that last name that have been in USM. Unusual . . .”

“For me, the interesting question is, since [Morgan] reached the pinnacle of his career and is not retirement age, why would he willingly retire? If he was asked for his resignation as CFO, why?”

“[Morgan's replacement] Russ [Willis] seems well-liked, and given the tight money times, this [appointment] may be more than 'interim.' . . . [W]hat was the problem he was involved in back in the [Shelby] Thames [administration] days? Didn't he leave for awhile and then return?”

“[Morgan's] interim replacement [Russ Willis] is a lawsuit waiting to happen.”

“. . . Morgan has been such an asset to the University. I really hate to hear [of his resignation].”

“The timing of [Morgan's resignation] really puts a spotlight on the whole Pinion [Properties] deal. One would think [Morgan] would have recognized this since the newspapers have been all over it lately.

“Wow!!! [Morgan] must have his 25 [years at USM] in, and/or crossed [USM president] Martha [Saunders]. The August 30th [resignation] date also suggests he will have to put the current round of \$15M cuts to bed before he goes.”

“Retirement now equals what?”

“[Morgan's replacement] Russ Willis is a major problem. . . . I suppose his loyalty has now been rewarded.”

“Morgan graduated in [19]75. It's hard to tell if he has 25 [years in] at USM. I would be tempted to say he was required to hand in his resignation . . . it would be dangerous to have someone who was responsible for wrongdoing to linger in a financial position. I also tend to compare this to what happened to [Harold] Doty and [Farhang] Niroomand. To resign in mid-semester really raises red flags.”

“I'd bet . . . that it's not what [Morgan] wouldn't sign or wouldn't do [that led to his resignation]. How much money did he make on the Pinion [Properties] deal?”

“. . . why get rid of such a pliant CFO?”

“If [Morgan] ends up leaving the university, I am guessing that Mary [Morgan] Anderson will get to pick the Morgan Accounting Chair all by herself.”

“In the interest of the University, . . . [Morgan's resignation] is something that should have happened a long time ago.”

“Beware the wrath of . . . [USM president] Martha [Saunders].”

“If [Morgan] had almost twenty [years at USM back] in 2006, he may be effectively gone now, but is being allowed that extra time to complete the 20 years. . . .”

“[H]mm... Did 'hissy fit [USM president Martha] Saunders' attack again [via Morgan's resignation]?”