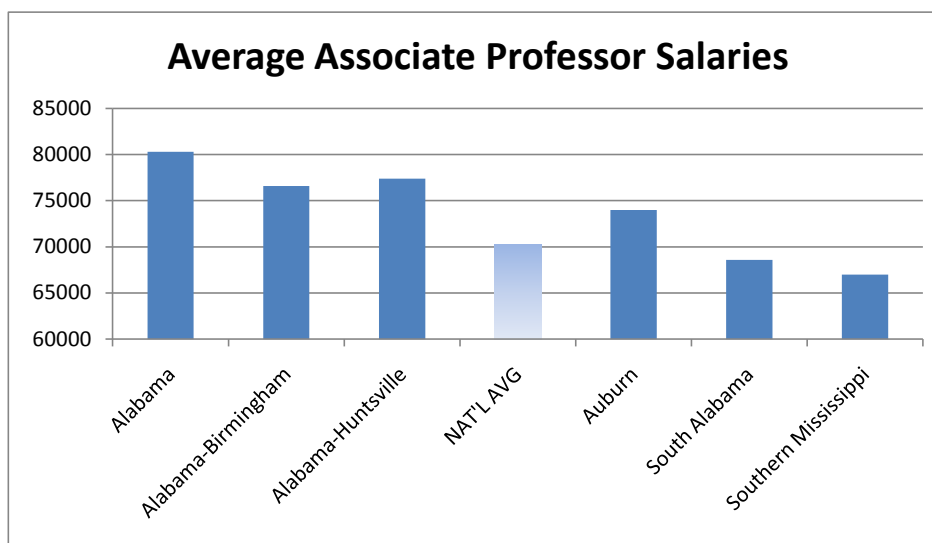


USM Makes Regional News: Could Lose 100 Faculty

An 18-Mar-10 article by the *Mobile Press-Register* reporter Renee Busby entitled “Poor economy bites into university faculty salaries” describes the sad state of higher education finance these days. Busby compares the situation at several AL-based institutions and USM. The report also includes details about USM’s prior lease (of a building) with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, USM’s installation of the new APG, and the possibility that 100 USM faculty will be terminated in the coming months. USM faculty senate president, Jeffrey Evans, also provides a quote explaining the two sides of the faculty furlough option.

Perhaps of most interest to USMers is the article’s presentation of average salaries around the region. These data are summarized in the figure below.



As the figure above illustrates, not only is the USM salary below the national average, it is below the salary at all five of the AL-based institutions. These data may also explain why USM provost Robert Lyman is reluctant to implement a program of faculty furloughs/salary reductions to deal with the current budget crisis. They don’t, however, explain Lyman’s opposition to salary cuts among USM’s top-level administrators.