

## USM's Provost Search

USM is searching for a new provost. A reader sent the following email:

Dear USM News:

USM is in the middle of an intense search for a new Provost. Have you reviewed the credentials of the three candidates on the Provost web site? Do you have any opinions on which of these fine men [candidates] is the one to help end the troubles at USM? We await your comments with anticipation.

-Name withheld by request

It's a bit much to offer recommendations or opinions based on just vitae, so we offer the following ideas about the three candidates as preliminary observations.

I'll start with a general (not universal) guiding principle or two.

- (1) Don't inbreed. There are good reasons for this standard I'll not detail here. Any academic can provide reasons. If you would like more information, please let me know and I will provide details.
- (2) A provost, president, or other high ranking administrator should have academic experience other than administration. Without a quality research and teaching record, they are not likely to know how to lead faculty or students.
- (3) Boards of trustees, IHL in USM's situation, who ignore such guidance reveal their ignorance of higher education.

Given a review of the vitae of the three finalists, Wayne M. Raskind was a teacher and researcher before acquiring significant administrative experience. USM already has too many inbreed faculty and administrators, and its current president has provided USM with more than enough academically unqualified administrative leadership.