

## USM's New President is \_\_\_\_\_

Today, January 2, 2013, the following plea for help finding a new president at the University of Southern Mississippi is still front and center on the home page at [usm.edu](http://usm.edu):

University of Southern Mississippi Presidential Search  
Constituency Input on Presidential Search

The IHL Board Search Committee wants your input on the search for the next president of The University of Southern Mississippi. Contribute your ideas and opinions here.

<http://www.usm.edu/presidential-search>

The original schedule to name a new president was in January 1, 2013. So, what's the problem? Why isn't the candidate pool full to overflowing with qualified applicants?

We should expect many competent applicants for a plum job. Shouldn't we? Now wait a second. Let's stop for a moment. Maybe our assumption is inaccurate. Maybe the position of president at USM is not a plum job. Is the search revealing a weakness about the quality of USM?

Here's what amounts to a job description of USM's president:

### About the President

Appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL), the president of The University of Southern Mississippi is charged with serving as both the chief executive officer and principal educational officer. In general terms, the president is responsible to the Board of Trustees for every facet of institutional operations.

Specifically, the IHL Board delegates to its university presidents administrative control of the universities over which they preside. This includes responsibility for the administration of the divisions and departments of each institution and for keeping its expenditures strictly in harmony with the budget authorized by the IHL Board.

The president also must take the initiative in shaping the University's educational policy and academic standards in cooperation with the State Commissioner of Higher Education. The president has final authority over all employees. The president also is charged with the responsibility of maintaining appropriate standards of student conduct.

<http://www.usm.edu/about/administration/president>

The description sounds normal. What we'd usually expect in black and white. So, what's going on? Something's not quite right at USM. And the cause may be peeking out at us from the black-box search for a new president. Indirectly, the search for a new president

may be signaling a university of poor quality, which we know directly is troubled by corruption and incompetence. See, [usmnews.net](http://usmnews.net) reports over the past several years that reported the waste and corruption of a multimillion dollar airplane, tablet-gate, public relations *idgroup*, etc.