

Will Fedora Take on the CSF Challenge?

Faculty "Senator A" Proposes that USM Coach Donate \$35,000 Raise to the CSF

At its Nov-2010 monthly meeting, members of the USM faculty senate gave an impromptu ovation to a challenge to USM head football coach Larry Fedora made by a faculty senator who USMNEWS.net reporters are referring to as "[Senator A](#)." During the meeting, faculty senators were discussing the Martha Saunders administration's decision to provide Fedora with a \$35,000 raise heading into 2010-11, a raise that increased Fedora's "base pay" to \$685,000. The main issue with the raise that was discussed by senators, partly while USM chief financial officer Russ Willis occupied the podium, was that the raise came while USM's fiscal house is in shambles, with the institution having weathered a \$10 million cut to its FY2011 budget, and having just dealt with plans for the \$15 million cut coming in FY2012. The latter of these two cuts was addressed by dismissing 29 tenured and tenure-track faculty at USM, while the former wiped out the USM business school's entire economics department. Senator A's challenge is for Fedora to donate the entire \$35,000 raise to USM's Centennial Scholarship Fund, and when that challenge was made (verbally), USM faculty senators spontaneously clapped, and sources say that Willis lauded the classiness of the act, should Fedora rise to the challenge.



Fedora

Eustachy

Before deciding that the challenge is far-fetched, sources remind USMNEWS.net readers that during the 2008-09 season USM head basketball coach Larry Eustachy gave back to USM a \$25,000 bonus, [stating to New York Times' John Temple](#) that he (Eustachy) was returning the money (1) because he (Eustachy) felt he had not done an adequate job, and (2) to help USM deal with the economic downturn that was causing budgetary issues. As Eustachy told *NYT's* Temple, "Until I can turn around the program, I have told the administration that I do not want a contract extension and I will donate part of my compensation package back to Southern Miss to help during these difficult economic times." Though only time will tell whether Fedora will give up his \$35,000 raise to the USM Centennial Scholarship Fund, sources tell USMNEWS.net that interest in him making a decision regarding this challenge will likely remain high. That said, stay tuned to USMNEWS.net for updates on this particular story.