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## **New President, New Bloat**

Hattiesburg - According to Amy Martin's 1-May - 2013 [presser](#), USM has hired Shannon Fleming as Executive Director of USM Foundation. According to Martin, Fleming will assume this new role at USM effective 1-June-2013. Fleming comes to USM from Philander Smith College, where he served as [Vice President for Institutional Advancement](#). According to Martin, "Fleming will serve as the chief staff executive for the USM Foundation, in addition to serving as the director of development for the University, and will be responsible for the Foundation's strategic leadership, attainment of goals and objectives, coordination of fundraising activities and board management."

Also according to Martin, Fleming's position was "recently recreated as a stand-alone role". According to the report, Fleming and Bob Pierce, "who has served as both the Executive Director of the Foundation and the Vice President for University Advancement since 2010" will be sharing Pierce's current job. Although, sources tell usmnews.net that Fleming will not be sharing Pierce's salary.

What are Fleming's qualifications for the job? Martin tells us "Fleming served for seven years as the Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Ark. where he was responsible for all fundraising activities including planned, major and annual gifts." However, sources question whether Fleming's experience at Philander Smith College is quite what is needed at USM's Foundation. According to [Wikipedia](#), Fleming presided over a \$3 million dollar endowment at Philander Smith College. Assuming Philander Smith had \$0 endowment when Fleming started seven years ago, which sources tell us was highly unlikely, he raised on average less than \$500,000 per year. This does not bode well for Fleming adding another \$10 million dollars to USM's endowment in the next five years.

<b>Philander Smith College</b>	
<b>Established</b>	1877: Walden Seminary 1882: Philander Smith College
<b>Type</b>	Private, HBCU
<b>Endowment</b>	\$3 million
<b>President</b>	Walter M. Kimbrough
<b>Students</b>	800
<b>Location</b>	Little Rock, Arkansas, United States
<b>Affiliations</b>	United Methodist Church UNCF
<b>Website</b>	philander.edu ( <a href="http://www.philander.edu/">http://www.philander.edu/</a> )

As sources point out, the newest hire at the Foundation points to a conclusion drawn by prior reports and editorials here at usmnews.net -- administrative bloat is alive and well at USM.