

University Administrators And the Decline of American Higher Education

Part 1

“Administrators and staffers actually outnumber full-time faculty members at America’s colleges and universities...Forty years ago, America’s colleges actually employed more professor than administrators.” (*The Fall of the Faculty: The Rise of the All-Administrative University and Why It Matters* (Oxford University Press), by Benjamin Ginsberg.)

Average salary of university presidents, 2010-2011, is \$286,897. Martha Saunders’ salary is considerably more. And her salary doesn’t count her benefits, like a mansion, airplane, etc. The average salary of full-time faculty during the same period is \$65,310. They do not have benefits like a mansion, airplane, etc. (http://chronicle.com/article/Average-Salaries-of-Full-Time/128522/?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en)

As of 2009, the Chronicle of Higher Education, reported that USM had one of the “biggest increases” in the nation in “growth in managers and support personnel relative to enrollment.”: 84%. That translates to tens of millions of dollars to pay for an increasing number of USM administrators.

Over the past decade, student tuition at the University of Southern Mississippi has increased practically every semester.

With all the money spent, is USM a Tier 1 institutions? No.

Tier 2? No.

Tier 3? No.

Tier 4? Yes, at the bottom, regardless of President Saunders’ embarrassing braggadocio that USM is “world class.”

The Institutions of Higher Learning, Governor, university administrators and state politicians have created Mississippi’s education reality.