

EDITORIAL

***The Hattiesburg American:* “2012 a year of change at Southern Miss”**

Wrong: No Change Here. Just the Same Ol’ Blather

The Hattiesburg American reporter Ed Kemp wrote in a [recent article](#) (“2012 a year of change at Southern Miss”) bemoaning, “In just over a year, Southern Miss has waved goodbye to a longtime athletic director, two head football coaches, a head basketball coach, a provost and, most importantly, a president.”

Mr. Kemp pulled his punches by not pointing out details that some of the departures were in the wake of corruption, incompetence, or waste of taxpayers’ and students’ money. Let’s take a minute to exemplify what the *Hattiesburg American* allows bureaucrats at Southern Miss to get away with. In other words, nothing’s changed; they’re still blathering and the *Hattiesburg American* is dutifully reporting it without follow up questions.

“The latest shoe will cost \$2.1 million over the next three years. That’s the amount of former head football coach Ellis Johnson’s buyout. Interim President Aubrey Lucas said the plan was to raise that money entirely from private sources.”

Have you ever seen a bureaucrat revisit their “plans” after they’ve been implemented? To assess how the plan turned out? There’s a good reason they don’t. Too often they don’t get implemented because there was either no intent to implement the plan or the plans are abysmal failures. *The Hattiesburg American* does not make a practice of following up on such “plans.” That suits the bureaucrats just fine. That way we can’t assess their performance.

This kind of statement, that is, “plan,” from Lucas is likely nothing more than public relations for *Hattiesburg American* readers. Consider the folly of what Lucas is really saying: Is there anyone in their right mind who would actually contribute money to support the multimillion dollar personnel failure of hiring Johnson as the head coach? Pay him off to leave, for doing nothing but produce a 0 wins and 12 losses record?

My bet is that student fees will be increased when this flap dies down and few will take the time to connect the dots. Students and taxpayers will pay for this mismanagement of their money, just as they have paid many millions for an airplane, outside public relations consultants, computer tablets for select students and personnel, books to celebrate USM administrators, etc., etc.