

The Cause(s?) of the Ever Increasing Costs of Higher Education

usmnews.net will return to the continuing series monitoring the administrative mismanagement related to the costs and uses of USM's airplane, N777AQ, on Monday. Yesterday, March 21, 2013, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported another story about the significant increase in the costs of higher education over the past decade and its causes. The title is "[Lighter Teaching Loads for Faculty Contribute to Rising College Costs, Report Says](#)," by Sydni Dunn.

The rising cost of college can't be blamed just on dwindling state appropriations or inflation, according to a report released on Wednesday by Education Sector and the American Council of Trustees and Alumni. A decline in the teaching loads of tenured and tenure-track faculty members also plays a role, it says, driving up tuition costs by an average of \$2,598 for students at four-year colleges over a seven-year period it studied...

The report's author, Andrew Gillen...notes in the report that "the decline in teaching loads is often attributed to universities prioritizing research over teaching."

I included a comment along with over forty others. It went something like this:

At the School of Accountancy, University of Southern Mississippi, you get a light teaching load for "research." Since administrators are lazy or ignorant, all they do is [count numbers](#) of publications. Our faculty [game the system](#) by publishing in [vanity and low quality publications](#). The faculty dupe the lazy administrators with lots of [vanity publications](#) and thereby "earn" a [reduced teaching](#) load. (In other words, students pay more for less.) The administrators [squander resources](#)--game the system in their own ways--and [the faculty](#), who are in the best position to make observations, do not look at the details of administrative mismanagement. (See, our reports at usmnews.net.) [Administrators](#) have access to [more resources](#) and [squander more](#) than faculty [could ever squander](#) on their own. Our trustees (the IHL) participate in misuse of resources (e.g., [junkets to ball games](#) on USM's airplane as guests of [USM administrators](#)) and our legislators don't have a clue. They don't do details and are easily misled by administrators ([IHL](#) and university administrators). Under these circumstances, the cost of higher education continues to go up unchecked by any effective oversight.

As long as Mississippi taxpayers do not demand effective oversight, they will continue to be the beneficiaries of ever increasing costs of higher education.