

Dear usmnews.net...(continued)

This is a follow-up to a recent “Dear usmnews.net” report. In part, it says, “Last year Greg Lassen [former VP for Finance at USM] was in the market looking for a job as a university president. His second interview was on campus at Eastern Kentucky University. Fortunately, for Eastern Kentucky, the search was “open”. Take a look at the following link [entitled] [Lassen’s Sloppy Scholarship](#).

The report concluded: Ask yourself if Dr. Bennett’s dissertation *should* have met the requirements for a Master’s Thesis at USM. (I use the word “*should*” because, if Lassen’s scholarship is the standard at USM, Dr. Bennett’s dissertation might have passed muster here, too.)

The abstract to Dr. Bennett’s dissertation at Tennessee State University in part follows:

The purpose of this study was to provide a profile of students who were and were not able to successfully complete all degree requirements for the Doctor of Arts program at Middle Tennessee State University from 1990 through 1995. Differences, as well as similarities, between degreed and non-degreed students were identified in regard to following areas: (a) demographics; (b) attitudes and perceptions of the program in the area of curriculum, administration, and interaction with faculty, advisors, and committee members; and (c) specific factors impacting the student’s current status of either degreed or non-degreed.

The study found that the profile of a degreed DA student at MTSU was a white married male, about 35 years old, who was a senior college faculty member earning between \$30,000 and \$35,000 per year. The profile of a non-degreed DA student was also white married male, about 36 years old, who was not a faculty member and made less than \$30,000 per year.

The study found that degreed students consistently reported a favorable attitude in all areas of subjective factors tested in this study. Non-degreed students did not provide such a favorable response in the same areas...

“The Impact of Selected Factors Related to Completing the Doctor of Arts Degree at Middle Tennessee State University.”

We encourage readers to obtain a copy of President Bennett’s dissertation and make a personal assessment. Unfortunately, since the dissertation is subject to copyright laws, usmnews.net is unable to publish it in its entirety.