

Dear usmnews.net

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I don't know what you are hearing from campus, but the situation is bad and expected to get worse. Southern Miss has lost almost 10% of its student body. Some of us think the number is even higher and total [enrollment is even lower](#), but is hidden behind the way the IHL and the school [counts the number](#) of students. A lot of people don't realize it, but most of our money comes from tuition; state appropriations continue to drop. President Bennett suggested in his [budget update](#), that enrollment isn't likely to improve given the competition for students and the reduction in state funding based on loss of credit hours taught. You roughed out the numbers in one of your reports, and here's what we're looking at:

$\$3,490/\text{semester} \times 2 \text{ semester} \times 1623 \text{ students lost} = \$11,238,540$

BTW, I haven't adjusted for the income lost last year because of the drop in enrollment. I'm just talking about this year.

We have a lot of fixed costs, like paying back the loans the university took out to go on its building spree. Those have to be paid back. I don't see Bennett and his overpaid administrators taking pay cuts, so most of us think we are going to see another round of layoffs and department closings.