

Dear usmnews.net

Dear usmnews.net,

Since I know you are interested in business issues and the cost of education, I am sending you a link to a very interesting article -- particularly if you are a parent or a student. [Why 2016 Will Be a Big Year For Student Loans](#). According to the article, the class of 2015 will have an average student loan debt of more than \$35,000.

As you reported yesterday, tuition at a bottom tier university like Southern Miss will soon exceed \$7,000 per year. That's just tuition. It doesn't include books, food, a place to live, transportation, and the list goes on. Let me quote from [The Hattiesburg American](#) article you reported on yesterday. "Still, increasing college costs are outstripping family incomes. In-state tuition will have risen 64 percent from fall 2006 to fall 2016, while household incomes in Mississippi have grown less than 20 percent in that time. The typical Mississippi family must pay 17 percent of its income for tuition at a state university, not counting room and board."

I find it frustrating because much of these costs are unnecessary. [President] Bennett doesn't need an airplane. The University doesn't need the army of vice presidents, deans, associate deans, assistant deans, and administrative assistants, and the list goes on. We don't need a football team or a basketball team that siphon millions of dollars every year. We don't need "monumental" dorms. We don't need spiffy walkways and walls. We need classrooms and teachers. We need to be able to afford to send our children to school.

Next year, [President] Bennett will come up with another excuse why enrollment has dropped again, while he and his fellow bureaucrats ignore the obvious -- we can't afford it. On the other hand, if my kids are going to borrow a pot load of money, they might as well go to the best university they can get into - not a university that is perpetually ranked at the bottom.

Name withheld