

*Editorial*

**USM's "Well-Informed" But Anonymous Anti-Blogger Blogger Blogs that We Shouldn't "Listen To Bloggers" by *Hal Greene***

"Don't listen to bloggers." That's what an anonymous blogger advised his fellow bloggers—sports bloggers—as s/he insisted that Dr. Bennett "was a great hire." Let's refer to him/her as the anti-blogger blogger. Let's see if s/he makes better sense with the details that Dr. Bennett "was a great hire."

Anonymous anti-blogger blogger: "He [Bennett] received several top notch recommendations." "Bennett blew everyone away with his interviews." He "brings a ton of experience" and is "a rock star in education."

Well, we haven't seen a single recommendation -- top notch or otherwise. The interviews were conducted in secret so we don't know if "Bennett blew everyone away." We haven't seen a resume so we don't know whether he 'brings a ton of experience'. And, what the devil is a "rock star in education" and why would we want one anyway? Well, it's interesting to note that our "rock star" president-to-be holds, according to [his profile](#) posted on the UGA website, an "academic appointment of Associate Professor in the Department of Counseling and Human Development Services in the College of Education." Maybe he is a "rock star" but he certainly is an academic "all star".

However, let's look at more of what our anonymous anti-blogger blogger has to say about Dr. Bennett.

Anonymous anti-blogger blogger: "Do not believe any bullcrap about the recommendation of our search committee." We don't know what he means. He didn't amplify. Anyway, I wonder if the anonymous anti-blogger blogger is a member of the IHL Committee, or a member of the IHL? Unfortunately, s/he doesn't say and doesn't give us a hint about any other source for the information. Regardless, should we believe any of anonymous anti-blogger blogger's claims? Since s/he didn't bring any evidence, I wonder what s/he could possibly mean by "bullcrap." Is s/he a follower of the theology that what s/he says isn't "bullcrap" by the fact that s/he says it, and that anyone who questions, or provides contrary evidence contrary automatically speaks "bullcrap"?

Let's continue. Anonymous anti-blogger blogger: "So yes, Rodney Bennett was a top choice. Also, the IHL hires an independent search firm, and they also put Dr Bennett in their top 2 choices, by the way, they chose from a list of over 50 people nationally who they knew met the requirements to be a university president." The point is, all we know is what our anonymous anti-blogger blogger says. We know that the IHL hired a search firm. Since the IHL and or Southern Miss was footing the bill, how do we know just how independent the firm was. How do we know there was "a list of over 50 people nationally who they know met the requirements to be a university president"? We don't even know what requirements they considered as making someone worthy of being a

university president. And just as importantly, we don't know our anonymous anti-blogger got the information he pronounces as truth. Does he have an inside track with the IHL that the rest of us lack?

Where's Bennett's resume? When usmnews.net finally got a copy of Martha Saunders' resume from a colleague at another university there wasn't much in the [way of research](#). And, what little appeared on her resume was pretty low level. However, IHL made much of her research record when they hired her.

We should be able to review the over-50 resumes and recommendations for the candidates that were available to the IHL and the "independent search firm." We should be able to do it before the "preferred candidate" is named. Or hired. And, have input on whether "over 50 people nationally who they knew met the requirements to be a university president" did indeed meet the requirements to be a university president." Our anonymous anti-blogger claims Bennett was the best. Yet Bennett has no research record any of my colleagues at usmnews.net can find. If that's true, what were the other more than 50 candidates like? What were their credentials? Folks with master degrees, but nice guys and gals? Think about what that says about the quality of USM as an academic institution.

Anonymous anti-blogger blogger: "Dr Bennett already has an unbelievable plan for the university. First and foremost, he is goin (sic) to hire a CFO. Super super important!!!" Okay, what plan? Where is it? Is it, too, secret? And your zinger, anonymous anti-blogger blogger, suggests a significant financial problems at USM. "A new CFO is 'Supper (sic), supper (sic) important!!!" usmnews.net has reported the financial mismanagement for years and we have provided the FOIA documents gotten from USM to support the reports. I guess that means our anonymous anti-blogger blogger now believes our reports.

Anonymous anti-blogger blogger: "Guys, there is soooo much more information I can give you." But s/he doesn't provide "soooo much more information" and provides no evidence for his/her gleeful pronouncements. But s/he claims (without providing a shred of evidence) s/he wants you to "have enough factual info to pass a good judgement (sic) on your own."

Thanks, anonymous anti-blogger blogger. You were soooo helpful

So, the bottom line, you're not going to get any "factual info to pass a good judgment" from the anonymous anti-blogger blogger, the IHL or unless things change, Dr. Bennett.

Secrecy, secrecy, secrecy. Rumors, rumors, rumors. Our anonymous anti-blogger blogger is tossing out the unsupported and unsupportable (because the facts are buried behind a veil of secrecy) nonsense the IHL breeds.