

Editorial

Courage and Vision

This is a time for plain language. Efforts and money spent to tweak a failed, very expensive, century long distraction from the primary mission of education -- sports to be specific -- is a failure of vision and courage. The faculty senate and President Lucas recently engaged in a "debate" about a moribund activity: USM football. The faculty senate and president Lucas totally missed their predicament and opportunity. Of course, it's not surprising to anyone who has observed South Mississippi's lack of leadership. Leadership in Southern Mississippi, like Lucas and USM's faculty senate, acts as if they were still reeling from a Civil War defeat and humiliation of Reconstruction that occurred nearly a century and a half ago.

The obvious question is not how to repair a failed century of USM football and recoup the untold millions wasted. Why compete on a well-worn path with schools that can out spend USM at every turn? Financially, it's stupid—no other word for it. It's like the tech faculty with the backing of the state and university resources to compete with Apple, Sony, et al in the manufacture and development of smart phones.

A change of course is obvious, but that change requires something sorely missing in our South Mississippi leadership. Courage and vision. Courage and vision would move USM in a direction that offers the best chance for success. Courage and vision should focus all efforts and resources on providing the best education possible for our young men and women. That should be USM's investment in the future. Courage and vision should focus on becoming the best educational institution in the South—or anywhere else for that matter.