FACT: USM's enrollment is down significantly

Southern Miss is focusing "on the quality of the student body … (by) enrolling students it is confident can succeed in progressing and graduating" according to a September news release.

With overall enrollment numbers down to 15,325 compared to last year's 16,468, Southern Miss has put an emphasis on gaining scholars who exude excellence.

Fact: USM's enrollment numbers are down significantly. The rest of the statements are just PR blather. USM feels it must rationalize its significant decline in student enrollment. That's what its administrators usually do when faced with unpleasant facts.

You may be tempted to believe USM PR blather. If you believe USM's rationalization, you'll have to believe that Ol' Miss, MSU, etc. did not experience enrollment decline because (1) they do NOT "focus 'on the quality of the student body…(by) enrolling students it is confident can succeed…" or (2) that USM has historically admitted – and taken money from -- students whom it was not confident could succeed.

USM administrators and their PR folks are so focused on rationalizing the significant drop in enrollment that they fail to see their PR blather is either insulting their sister institutions in Mississippi or admission of historical malfeasance.

USM can prove our view is false—that they are not just rationalizing disagreeable facts—by showing details of past and current ACT and SAT scores, and, comparing them with other state schools to demonstrate that their focus is indeed on "quality of their students" and other state schools are not focused on "quality of their students." If USM has historically admitted students with little chance of success, taking tuition dollars – far too many of which were borrowed, then students and taxpayers are entitled to know the scope of this reprehensible conduct and who is responsible for it.