

Hiring More Administrators is the Same Old Nonsense Solution

Rodney Bennett recently provided the following critique of his Gulf Coast critics and a defense of his proposals. We've heard it all before many times. At what point in history do we ignore any leader who offers the same tired ideas? You decide.

[Message from the President Regarding Coastal Operations](#)

Main Content

BLOG | FRI, 08/01/2014 - 10:01AM | BY RODNEY D. BENNETT

As President of The University of Southern Mississippi, I am deeply troubled that USM's commitment to meeting the needs of the Mississippi Gulf Coast has been called into question...

We must be efficient with our resources while growing our enrollment and advocating for dedicated funding to offset operational costs.

I firmly believe that USM's new organizational structure will allow us to grow our Gulf Park campus and other coastal operations. This structure, announced in January, promotes unity, efficiency, and maximization of resources – and this new model emphasizes consultation between campuses in making decisions while connecting accountability with responsibility and authority. It is important to understand that investments in financial and human capital on the Gulf Park campus have actually increased. **Two new associate dean positions have already been added so that all colleges will have an associate dean working on the ground in Long Beach...**

A glaring absurdity is President Bennett's offer of more administrators as an "investment ... in human capital." Administrators are not investments in teachers—in satisfaction of the primary education mission of a university. USM's habit of adding more administrators was [previously noted](#) in publications including usmnews.net.

As of 2009, the Chronicle of Higher Education, reported that USM had one of the "biggest increases" in the nation in "growth in managers and support personnel relative to enrollment": 84%. That translates to tens of millions of dollars to pay for an increasing number of USM administrators.

USM traditionally solves its problems not by hiring more educators, but by hiring more administrators. President Bennett fits that tradition. Why expect different results?