

Is Rodney Bennett Qualified to be President of USM?

Part 4

President Rodney Bennett's Curriculum Vita

We finally received President Rodney Bennett's curriculum vita from USM. It took several reminders and many weeks for USM to come up with it. That's okay. We're patient.

In Part 1, we introduced this series about the qualifications of Dr. Bennett by way of reviewing USM's and University of Georgia's organizational charts. In Part 2, we began the review of his CV—the top half of his CV's front page.

In Part 3, we continue reviewing Dr. Bennett's CV. In Part 4, we review the next section of Dr. Bennett's CV.

Major Accomplishments as Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Georgia:

- Provided leadership and oversight for approximately \$150 million of Student Affairs construction projects. The projects included a \$58 million expansion of the Tate Student Center; a \$50 million expansion of student housing facilities; a \$17 million expansion of the University Health Center; a multi-million dollar expansion to the Ramsey Center for Physical Activities and Club Sports Complex; and a \$20 million dollar project that improved Greek letter houses.
- Provided leadership that increased fundraising to the Division of Student Affairs and generated more than \$4.7 million in private funding, including a \$2 million gift to create the John Fontaine Jr. Center for Alcohol Awareness and Education.
- Provided leadership for a mandatory online alcohol awareness class for all new and first year students at UGA.
- Provided leadership for the creation of mandatory minimum sanctions for students under the legal drinking age who violate the institution's policy regarding alcohol and other drugs.
- Provided leadership for the development and adoption of a parental notification policy for students who violate the University of Georgia's alcohol and other drugs policy for a second time.
- Provided leadership that increased student satisfaction with the residence life experience as indicated by data acquired from the Education Benchmarking, Inc. (EBI) survey.
- Provided support to receive a grant from the State of Georgia Department of Human Resources Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases. The grant created The Georgia Network: Addressing Collegiate Alcohol and Other Drug Issues and proactively addressed the issues of alcohol and other drugs in order to promote healthy campus environments. The statewide office was housed in the Division of Student Affairs on UGA's campus.
- Created the Office of Intercultural Affairs which serves as the "umbrella" unit responsible for the African American Cultural Center; International Student Life; Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Trans-gendered Resource Center; and Multicultural Services and Programs.
- Provided leadership for the creation of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Trans-gendered Resource Center.
- Chaired and provide ongoing leadership for the Behavioral Assessment and Response Council, which was created to address growing concerns regarding students in distress.
- Provided leadership for the development and adoption of Relationship and Sexual Violence and created a "free standing" office to support the initiative.
- Successfully collaborated with Academic Affairs and the Office of the Vice President for Instruction in maintaining eight learning communities in University Housing facilities.

- Provided financial support for programs, services, speakers, publications, travel, and other needs as requested by units throughout the University in an effort to support and enhance the mission of the institution.
- Enhanced the Division of Student Affairs website in order to better communicate with students, faculty, employees, and parents while demonstrating a higher level of transparency in the administration of the Division.
- Increased the number of women serving in leadership positions and implemented a salary equity plan that increased compensation for similar positions within the same unit(s).
- Provided leadership and supervision for the UGA Parents & Families Association.
- Collaborated with UGA Athletic Association to establish a UGA football game day management group. The group meets to discuss individual and unit activities on game day weekends in Athens, Georgia.
- Established a program to pay registration fees for graduate students in the College Student Affairs Administration program at the University of Georgia to attend conferences sponsored by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and College Student Educators International.
- Established a professional development program that annually brings a “scholar” or “expert practitioner” in the administration of Student Affairs to campus for group workshops and discussions with Division staff and graduate students in College Student Affairs Administration.
- Enhanced the area of Staff Development in order to more effectively meet the professional and personal needs of staff in the Division.
- Provided leadership to establish the Volunteer UGA Office.
- Raised (Division) over \$2,701,240 since 2005 for philanthropic community organizations and logged nearly 400,000 hours of community service.
- Provided leadership and financial support for the University of Georgia’s first overnight program for admitted minority students. The program was designed to increase the yield of enrolling students from underrepresented populations.
- Established a program that provides an orientation of the Division’s central administration to employees hired each quarter.
- Worked to re-activate the Committee on Student Affairs, a standing committee of University Council.
- Provided ongoing support to the University Health Center that resulted in continued re-accreditation by the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Hospital Organizations (JCAHO).
- Increased the number of professional staff members in Counseling and Psychiatric Services, Student Support (student hardship scenarios), Greek Life, International Student Life, the African American Cultural Center, and the Office of Judicial Programs.
- Provided leadership to create learning and development objectives that integrate the general education outcomes for the University, learning outcomes as defined by Student Affairs literature, and the practical experience of Student Affairs directors. These objectives serve as a guide for staff to intentionally facilitate students’ out-of-class learning and enhance their individual growth and development.
- Provided oversight for two “clean” audits in the Office of Student Financial Aid. The first audit was conducted by the Annual State Audit of Federal Aid Programs. The second audit was conducted by the Internal Audit Division of UGA. This office awards over \$200 million in student financial aid annually.
- Provided leadership to establish the New Dawgs Check List, an initiative that communicates to newly admitted students the important tasks that must be completed in order to successfully enroll. This initiative received the Governor’s Award and Chancellor’s award for Customer Service.

How do we confirm claims like “Providing leadership for...,” “Providing oversight for...,” “Successfully collaborating with...,” etc? How do we even know what Dr. Bennett’s claims actually mean? It’s not like confirming publicly available information such as publications or course schedules. The question becomes, what did he really do? We may never know because Dr. Bennett’s interviews and selection were conducted in secret, with even his application declared confidential.

So far, Dr. Bennett's CV still suggests that he has major gaps in his experience to preside over an entire university. We know from our [previous report](#) that Dr Bennett did not have decision authority for the following supervisory experiences required of a university president:

The organizational units Dr. Bennett has not led include "Senior VP of Finance and Administration" composed of "Budget Director," "Environmental Safety," "Human Resources," "Auxiliary Services," "Facilities Management," "Architects for Facilities Planning," and "Business and Accounting Services;" "Academic Affairs and Provost" which is composed of "VP for Research," "VP for Public Service and Outreach," "VP for Instruction," and "VP for Information and Technology;" and "Senior Vice President for External Affairs."

We'll review Dr. Bennett's research and teaching record, which are not just crucial areas of supervisory experience, but require actual hands-on skills in order to competently oversee the activities of an entire university. And they can be confirmed and evaluated whereas Dr. Bennett's ***"Major Accomplishments as Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Georgia"*** are difficult if not impossible to confirm and evaluate.