

# Is Rodney Bennett Qualified to be President of USM?

## Part 5

### 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 Parts 1 through 4, we provided a list of President Bennett's alleged administrative activities as reported in his CV. In Part 5 we list his research.

#### *Research for Publication:*

Barham, J.D., & Bennett, R.D. (2005) Understanding the Use of Value Statements in Student Affairs Practice, Data collection in progress.

GULP!

That's it. Nothing more. No other research is reported in Bennett's CV.

While you're thinking about the paucity of research, note the date of his one and only item of "Research for Publication" -- 2005. Maybe you are thinking (or want to believe) this is an out of date vita and that he has vast numbers of publications by now. In fact, Bennett's CV, from which all excerpts are taken, was provided by USM, in response to usmnews.net's Mississippi Open Records Act request, as his most recent CV. Additionally, the most recently dated item in Bennett's CV is 2011.

Consider, also, that Bennett is not the lead author in his one and only research project. And, it has not been published. It is merely "*Research for Publication.*" The authors are still, since 2005, in the "data collection in progress" phase of their research.

What's going on?

Well, for one thing, we're beginning to understand why we had to hound USM for weeks to get President Bennett's CV.

I would guess that most tenured faculty are like me. I had more published research than Bennett now has before I completed my dissertation. While I'm on the topic of dissertation, Bennett does not report the title of his dissertation. I have to wonder, given his research record, did he write and successfully defend a dissertation? Was it required in his doctoral program in "Education Administration" at Tennessee State University?

We might observe that the IHL members don't do research either, so it is not important to them in their consideration of selecting a university president. Regardless, IHL members obviously could care less about research, which is no small part of a research university. I assume USM is

still a research university. The University makes the claim: “The Premier Research University for the Gulf South.” “A comprehensive doctoral and research-driven university.” “A comprehensive Carnegie research university.”

So, how will President Bennett view research? Will he have even the slightest appreciation for research or a passing understanding to evaluate research?