

## **Another Peculiar Behavior From the IHL and USM**

We, again, have several Mississippi Open Records Act requests with the Institutions of Higher Learning and the University of Southern Mississippi. As our policy at usmnews.net says, a goal is to reduce the ridiculous secrecy of tax supported educational institutions like USM. IHL's and USM's responses are beginning to arrive. You can bet we'll report them in detail soon.

We have to admit we continue to be surprised by our "leaders'" behavior. That probably follows from their inclination to be unnecessarily secretive. Nevertheless, we'll report details of the documents we're receiving but let's start with something that seemed to jump off a letter we received. Today's surprise:

There does not yet exist a contract between Dr. Bennett and the University/IHL, so same cannot be made available.

IHL/USM has not only named Dr. Bennett as USM's president, but has celebrated his being the 10<sup>th</sup> President of USM. One newspaper reported that "Dr. Rodney Bennett, who on Feb. 7 became [let me repeat, **became**, past tense] the next president of The University of Southern Mississippi...

Maybe we should have asked for a letter of intent with Dr. Bennett or words to that effect. Regardless, you can bet we'll ask until we get the contract. And we'll share it with you.