

MORE BAD NEWS

USM'S MBA Program Is Still Officially Unranked

HATTIESBURG – Bad news continues to arrive. With the release of the 2015 edition of Best Colleges from *U.S. News & World Report*, usmnews.net has learned that USM's MBA program is once again “unranked”. According to [*U.S. News & World Report*](#), “Unranked means that U.S. News did not calculate a numerical rank for that school. The school did not qualify to be numerically ranked.” It appears that USM was unwilling or unable to report “key educational characteristics” necessary to be ranked.

Regular readers of usmnews.net must now be wondering how the brilliant budget-cutting plan of moving the program to the Long Beach campus in 2011 is, only two years later in 2013, impacted the MBA program falling into the ranks of the “unranked”. Of course, and as sources point out, the original decision to move the program to Long Beach was simply a feint at budget cutting, and now the program is being moved back to Hattiesburg as originally planned. One usmnews.net reader adds that if sources are not accurate in their description of this event, then other readers and all members of the USM community are left only to conclude that the USM administration is simply incompetent. This conclusion would, of course, indict former USM president Martha Saunders.

Either way, USM is in the process of restoring the MBA program on its Hattiesburg campus. How much has the Hattiesburg program's closure, and now the Hattiesburg program's restoration, cost USM students and Mississippi taxpayers? How much did shifting the program from the Hattiesburg campus to the Long Beach campus in 2011 in order to deal with budget cuts facing the university in 2010 impact the current lack of ranking.

Surely making and reversing such decisions, over and over again across the colleges that make up the institution, is one of the major causes of the high rates of inflation in higher education in Mississippi and around the nation. These types of episodes are routine in higher education, at USM and around the state/country. As sources point out, students and taxpayers will, at some point, have to take a stand and demand more from those who have been entrusted to administer public colleges and universities.

Editorial Comment: Students must consider long and hard whether a degree from USM is worth their time, effort, and money. Regardless of what USM's in-house public relations staff and marketers claim, USM has a long history of being firmly mired in the bottom tier. USM's public relations and marketing staff are charged with image development, which appears to have little or no connection to the reality of USM providing quality education.