

Deja vu all over again

4.1 Percent Additional Tuition Hikes at USM

Jeff Amy's 19-November-2015 [report for](#) *The Hattiesburg American* confirms a 4.1% tuition increase facing in-state USM students beginning in Fall 2016. Amy states, "[s]till, increasing college costs are outstripping family incomes. In-state tuition will have risen 64 percent from fall 2006 to fall 2016, while household incomes in Mississippi have grown less than 20 percent in that time. The typical Mississippi family must pay 17 percent of its income for tuition at a state university, not counting room and board." What will this mean in dollars and cents to USM students and their families?

University of Southern Mississippi: \$7,659

Nor is there any reason to believe that tuition increases are coming to an end. According to Amy, based on plans submitted to the IHL, tuition will increase yet another 3.3 % on average in fall 2017.

Exactly one year earlier, on 19-November-2014 Amy [reported for](#) *The Hattiesburg American* concerning the 3.2% tuition increase facing in-state USM students beginning 2014-15 stated, "[s]till, increasing college costs are far outstripping stagnant family incomes. In-state tuition will rise 66 percent from fall 2005 to fall 2015, while household incomes have been basically flat in Mississippi. It now takes about 17 percent of the typical Mississippi family's income to pay for one year of college at a state university, not counting room, board or other costs."

Two years ago, on 16-October-2013, Jeff Amy's [reported for](#) *The Hattiesburg American* announcing a 7% tuition increase spread over two years beginning 2013-14. As Amy reported in 2013, "... increasing college costs are far outstripping stagnant family incomes. In-state tuition has gone up more than 50 percent since the fall of 2004, while household incomes have been flat in Mississippi. It now takes about 12 percent of the typical Mississippi family's income to pay for one year of college at a state university, not counting room, board or other costs."

Here's an interesting question. Is President Bennett willing to share some of the pain? Will he give up his costly airplane? Will he reduce the administrative bloat? I think we all know the answer to both questions -- NO!