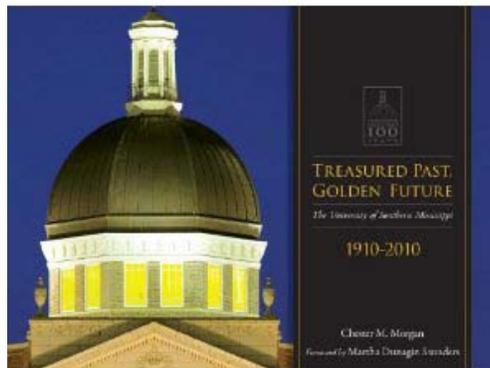


Subventions Return

A Guest Editorial

As a regular follower of this website for some time now, I can say that the news and editorials that appear here are well received by many readers. Your recent *Special Report* about the new “University Historian,” Bo Morgan, who is assigned to the “Office Of President,” jogged the memory bank. That [report](#) mentions his new history of Southern Miss, *Treasured Past, Golden Future*, that was published by the University Press of Mississippi last year (2010). Way back when this website was started there were reports about a former Southern Miss accounting administrator who used university funds to have a book or two published by this same outfit. I’m writing mainly about James Crockett’s book *Operation Pretense*. There was a report way back when called “The Costs of Sponsoring *Operation Pretense*” that pointed out this group wrote letters to Crockett asking him to provide “subventions” for publishing his book. It first asked for \$1,000, and then again for even more money. Your [report](#) shows that Crockett secured \$2,000 in subvention money to pay for the publication costs of the book, which came to about \$8,000. This website has [also shown](#) that Crockett used almost \$1,700 in funds from his Morgan Professorship to cover many incidental costs from putting the book together.



The \$2,000 is how much *we know* that Southern spent on Crockett’s book. How much was really put toward the \$8,000 we may never know. Then there is the second book he put through the UPoM, *Hands in the Till*. How much did Southern Miss dedicate to that book, which probably cost more like \$9,000 to produce? Now, shouldn’t we think that the university not only submitted subventions for Morgan’s book on Southern’s 100 years, it probably put up the *whole amount* of the printing costs? One would think these costs, years after Crockett’s, might well exceed \$10,000. If you check the spring 2010 course schedule, you find that Morgan is teaching a large section of western civilization. So, a book and a western civilization course. What do you suppose that costs taxpayers? It’s a shame that so many good faculty are being terminated. Hearing about this whole university historian episode now is certainly bothersome. I’m betting the real story lies ahead, and that is when we might see Morgan publish another UPoM book, only this time about president Martha Saunders herself. That might come under the heading of “first female president” or something along those lines. That could well be nauseating.