

While the usmnews.net respects the opinion of our colleagues, the editor would like to note that Dr. Thames treated him with respect and refused to take rash, unthoughted action.



Dr. Bennett,

Did you bring your axe for the Friendship Oak?

A MAN came into a forest, and made a petition to the Trees to provide him a handle for his axe. The Trees consented to his request, and gave him a young ash-tree. No sooner had the man fitted from it a new handle to his axe, then he began to use it, and quickly felled with his strokes the noblest giants of the forest.

An old oak, lamenting when too late the destruction of his companions, said to a neighboring cedar: The first step has lost us all. If we had not given up the rights of the ash, we might yet have retained our own privileges and have stood for ages.

Aesop's fable above warns against yielding your rights to others. The announced structural changes are reminiscent of the Shelby F. Thames days where the opinions of faculty, staff, and students weighed little against the will of entrenched administrators. Dr. Bennett is demanding of the Gulf Coast campus that we give him a handle for his axe.¹

¹ Picture and fable courtesy of http://www.litscape.com/author/Aesop/The_Trees_and_the_Axe.html at www.litscape.com