

You're *Really* Not Going To Believe This

Part 3

Part 3 continues our dialogue with USM and one of its Associate General Counsel. The topic: a Mississippi Open Records Act request for, among other things, Dr. Rodney Bennett's vita. As an academic, he has one. It reports his public activities like research, which is done and published in public; teaching, which is done in front of students, i.e., publicly; and administrative duties, which are also done in public.

We ended [Part 2](#) with the following dialogue with one of the University's Associate General Counsel:

“Why don't we simplify this? Can you think of any reason why I can't just contact Dr. Bennett directly and request a copy of his vita?”

After several days of silence, we actually heard from the University's Associate General Counsel who commented.

I was called out of town and was out Thursday afternoon and Friday. I will check on both the vita and inter company invoices first thing Monday morning.

Counsel's response was reasonable.

On Tuesday, after a gentle reminder, we heard from someone at the General Counsel's office who provided a few interdepartmental invoices. However, as of the date on which this report is being written (March 6, 2013), no one at the University's Counsel's office has reported the results of “check[ing] on . . . the vita.”

Therefore, usmnews.net is following up. Today, a letter went out to Dr. Bennett requesting a copy of his vita. In case Dr. Bennett doesn't want to email his vita, a paper copy of the letter was sent to him via overnight mail with a prepaid overnight label to use in returning the vita.

What will happen next? No one at usmnews.net really knows, but we will keep our readers advised.