

From: all-facstaff-bounces@usm.edu [all-facstaff-bounces@usm.edu] on behalf of
USM Mailout [usmailout@usm.edu]

> Sent: Monday, April 08, 2013 1:29 PM

> To: all-facstaff@usm.edu

> Subject: [All-facstaff] Message from the President Regarding Proposed Change to
Board of Trustees Funding Formula

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> Faculty and Staff,

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> You may have read over the weekend an erroneous report in the Hattiesburg
American that our university faces an \$80 million state funding cut—the result of
a proposed revision to the Board of Trustees formula used to direct funds to each
of the state’s higher education institutions. Let me be clear, there is no
evidence to support \$80 million in cuts, and the Hattiesburg American has issued
a correction.

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> The revised funding formula currently under consideration by the trustees
contains performance benchmarks related to student retention, progression, and
graduation rates. Universities that support student success best will be rewarded
under the proposal. Our communication with the board related to the funding
formula continues to be excellent, and the trustees are using accurate data
related to enrollment growth, faculty salaries, and more, to guide their
decision.

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> With that in mind, I encourage you to remember that every interaction with a
student creates an opportunity for you to say or do something that helps them
succeed. We should, and must, do all that we can to support students. If you work
at Southern Miss, you are an educator, and I expect that we are all working
toward creating pathways to degree completion for our students.

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> If a revised formula is approved, I will ensure that the campus is informed of
the formula’s effects on the university budget so that together we can strategize
to maximize our funding opportunities.

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> Rodney Bennett, President

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> All-facstaff mailing list

> All-facstaff@usm.edu

> <https://listserv.usm.edu/mailman/listinfo/all-facstaff>