

31st & Pearl

Saunders–Amodeo Relationship Should be Examined

After reading the drivel that Mona Amodeo's consulting firm produced in response to USM's recent "Core Dialogues," it's clear that the University got hosed by its contractual relationship with Amodeo. For a report which barely presents any coherent thoughts, and includes some classic, oxymoronic management-speak, such as the oft-referenced "collective individualism," Mississippi's taxpayers had to part with \$40,000 of hard-earned cash. Because of that, it's not surprising to hear that some taxpayers did a quick cyberspace search about Amodeo's consulting firm, and the results were surprising.

First, there is no information on the web about Amodeo's company. No official website, no prospectus, no list of executive officers -- nothing to speak of. What is known from published reports is that Amodeo is based out of Pensacola, FL, which is where the University of West Florida is located. UWF is where Saunders spent part of her "academic" career, and it is where Saunders penned her book about the airlines industry. Their communications backgrounds and Pensacola home base begs for the conclusion that there's more to their association than the latest empty shell that is the Core Dialogues-based vision pamphlet.

Such an association would hardly be new to the USM family. And, from reports coming out of the dome, Saunders is looking more and more like certain leaders of old. Her recent trip to Jackson, in a Hummer limousine no less, to witness Phil Bryant's inauguration as Lt. Governor looks to be a page out of the past. The same Saunders blog menu that delivered the Hummer trip also includes a reference by Saunders to Amodeo's report, which was forthcoming at the time. Let's hope that Saunders continues to blog her way into the future. Let's also hope that reporters at usmnews.net, or others, look into Saunders' past links to Amodeo.

31st & Pearl is a series housed at usmnews.net that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.