From the Archives of Academic Administrative Yackety-Yak, Blather, Prattle, Jabber, and—for the Sophisticated Among You—Confabulation

Part 2

Part 2 of our series that highlights academic administrative yackety-yak, blather, prattle, jabber, or confabulation continues with Past USM President, Martha Saunders' **"Innovation (Creative, Bold, Determined)." (To catch up, see Part 1.)**

> The Core Dialogue process creates a context to engage, connect, and motivate stakeholders, while providing the leadership [that's Martha] with a composite view of stakeholders' perspectives. The Southern Miss Community-Campus Core Dialogues engaged diverse groups of stakeholders in conversation around the theme "Celebrating our Past. Designing our Future." The conversations focused on the strengths, values, and successes of the University as well as its hopes and dreams for the next decade.

Oop, Saunders didn't make it to "the next decade." Double-oops, "strengths, values, and successes" seems to exclude past USM debacles, crimes, and unethical behavior. How do we "move forward" until we correct the errors of the past? Maybe that's why USM "leaders" continue to make the same mistakes over and over. On a lesser but related concern is, were the "core dialogues" every used for anything?

Well, we'll return to these ideas later. Let's continue:

> **The qualitative research process incorporates principles of Grounded Theory** (Glaser and Strauss, 1999), **Whole Scale Change Processes** (Dannemiller, 2005; Wheatley, 1992; Passmore and Tolchinsky, 1989), **Positive Organizational Studies** (Ludema, et.al 2003; Quinn, 2000), **and Organizational Culture and Identity Change** (Hatch and Schultz 1997; Amodeo 2004). (Emphasis added to ease your task of reading.)

Ahhh…that's where all the jargon came from, we suppose.

> Data generated during the dialogues were imported and analyzed using NVivo, a qualitative data analysis program. This process of comparative analysis produced emergent themes during first order coding. Second order coding was used to define key concepts that encompassed emergent, overarching themes. These concepts encompassed two focus areas the research team defined as *forces of innovation* and *areas of strategic focus*. These areas form the foundation for the research team's final synthesis of university's dream story and positive core statement.

I bet you can't wait to see what "overarching themes" were identified from the "data generated" and "analyzed using NVivo, a qualitative data analysis program."

You'll just have to wait until our next installment of Martha Saunders' "**Innovation"** confabulation, academic admin style.