

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

We plan to offer readers a new series that reports actual language administrators use to explain what they do or propose to do. This is, of course, not a new idea. We've considered highlighting their language in an exclusive series. Early on, it became apparent that we could not identify the silliest administrator's language. We're not even going to try. There are simply too many instances to choose from. And each new instance seems to outdo the last. A totally impossible task to select the silliest academic administrative yackety-yak, blather, prattle, jabber, or confabulation. Instead, we'll, from time to time, offer them to you for your edification—if you're an administrator looking for the most current admin-babble—or entertainment—if you're a straight shooter.

The challenge? Where to start. The crew here at usmnews.net voted unanimously to start with the queen of blather, our very own, recently departed president who unexpectedly resigned (or was fired, depending on whom you believe). A drum roll, please, **Martha Saunders!** After all, she is a communications expert trained in public relations. Who better to start with. (Certainly not with ex-Dean Harold "Booze Account" Doty. What a public relations disaster!)

Let's start with Saunders and Mona's "**Innovation (Creative, Bold, Determined).**" This publication was brought to you by long-time Saunders' friend, Mona Amodeo and Mona's **idgroup**. (Paid for by Mississippi taxpayers and USM students.)

Where better to begin blathering, if you're Martha and Mona, than with a "Conceptual Framework:"

Community-Campus Core Dialogues engaged participants in constructive dialogue to create inspired action. The underlying assumption of the Core Dialogue process is that people and organizations are highly generative. They are always evolving, growing, and moving toward the future. The dialogue focuses the whole organization on identifying its "positive core" —its greatest assets, capacities, resources and strengths — to create new possibilities for action and innovation. (p. 1)

Wow! Where do we go from here? Well, Martha and Mona figured that one out, too...I think. We'll confabulate over that issue, soon.

Tune in for the next installment of "**Innovation**" confabulation, Academic admin style.