

Are You Paying Attention?

An Editorial by *Susan Green-Lewis*

This is the month – September-2011 – when the faculty/staff raises that are being financed by monies found by the University Priorities Committee (UPC) will go out to their recipients. With all of the talk around campus about responsibility centered management and resource re-allocations, now is the time to be extra vigilant about how the university’s resources are being allocated. With a \$330,000 renovation of the *master bedroom suite* in the presidential mansion on Jamestown, and a \$2 million Beechcraft King Air lease, USM president Martha Saunders has clearly shown that she’s more than willing to direct university funds for her personal benefit. Yes, both of these projects were financed out of USM budgets, past and present. You see, Saunders follows a Thamesian approach to governing USM, and it’s time we wake up to that idea.



If Saunders could get away with it, she would likely want to place posters like that inserted above around the Hattiesburg and Long Beach campuses. That is, she would love to convince faculty and staff to police themselves into *not* discussing the September-2011 raise allocations, or any raise allocations that pop up in the future. To her, such talk is “careless talk,” and only serves to divide the campus’ constituencies. Of course, that some department’s faculty are getting 10% raises, while other, perhaps even more productive departments’ faculty are getting 1% or 2% raises, is part of that Thamesian governance equation that Saunders and others in her cabinet would probably prefer be kept in the dark. This will happen if nobody is paying attention. Perhaps a way around some of this would be for the USM faculty senate to take the reins and initiate a “study” of the September-2011 raises so that all faculty are covered politically, and an open accounting of Saunders’ intentions and actions can occur.