

## Breaking News

### Saunders' "Boudoir Makeover" Expenses Continue to Mount

HATTIESBURG – The recent [news item](#), broken by USMNEWS.NET reporters, entitled “Where All of ‘the Magic’ Happens” describes the **\$324,622.63** renovation to the “bedroom wing” of the USM President’s mansion in Hattiesburg. That installment in the *Special Report* series is already generating buzz among our readers, and if the cost over-runs on Saunders’ “*boudoir* makeover” request continue to mount, that buzz will continue on for some time to come. The recently released minutes of the IHL’s 21 February 2008 board meeting show that the over-runs are continuing. According to “Exhibit 2” of the Minutes, the IHL approved Change Order #2 on **IHL 208-282** – the real estate & facilities project renovation of the bedroom wing of the USM President’s mansion. As the insert below shows, construction work is now taking place both inside and outside of the bedroom suite.

#### MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

February 21, 2008

#### EXHIBIT 2

February 21, 2008

Real Estate & Facilities items that were approved by the IHL Board staff subsequent to the January 17, 2008 Board meeting in accordance with Board Policy 904 Board Approval.

#### The University of Southern Mississippi

The Board staff approved Change Order #2 for IHL 208-282, Renovation of President’s Home, in the amount of \$3,999.99 with no change to the contract time. The change order will replace brick pavers between the front and the driveway with exposed aggregate concrete with border of brick pavers to match new ramp. The project budget is \$300,000. Funds are available from university sources.

As the description above indicates, Change Order #2 on **IHL 208-282** covers the “replace[ment] of brick pavers between the front and the driveway with exposed aggregate concrete with border of brick pavers to match new ramp.” This change, or cost over-run, amounts to **\$3,999.99**, or about **1.3 percent** of the original budget of **\$300,000**. Change Order #1 resulted in an over-run of about **8.2 percent** of that same budget, while both change orders (to date) have raised the cost of the renovation (of the *boudoir*) to **\$328,622.62**. As in the previous instances, the funds are being made “available from university [USM] sources.”