

A Brief History of Saunders' "Lease" of Airplane N777AQ During a Recession

Part 3

Why Is There So Little Trust In Leaders?

We organize the history by documenting representations made by President Saunders and Provost Lyman in their report to a Faculty Senate meeting on [December 5, 2008](#) (page 2, para. 7). See Parts 1 and 2 which provide a context for Part 3 and the documents obtained from USM in a Mississippi Open Records that are the sources of information concerning the plane and passenger usage, costs, lease agreements, etc.

At the Faculty Senate meeting on December 5, 2008, "The Provost emphasized strongly that the deal [lease of airplane N777AQ] is still in negotiation, and is not complete." As of December 5, 2008, USM had spent thousands of dollars on the airplane. (See, [USM's AP & TRAVEL](#) document for confirmation.)

USM's AP & Travel document shows the following expenditures incurred before December 5, 2008:

Date	Amount	Journal ID	Line Descr	Ref	Account
AP & TRAVEL					
11/13/2008	3,472.00	AP00344479	King Air B200 Recurrent Traini	00239534	605750
11/25/2008	498.14	AP00345420	ORLANDO, FL	00074642	604110
11/25/2008	109.98	AP00345420	ORLANDO, FL	00074642	604120
11/25/2008	179.14	AP00345420	ORLANDO, FL	00074642	604130
11/25/2008	355.99	AP00345420	ORLANDO, FL	00074642	604140
11/25/2008	44.00	AP00345420	ORLANDO, FL	00074642	604160
11/25/2008	18.05	AP00345408	REIMBURSEMENT	00240596	606140
12/10/2008	2,100.00	AP00346395	Hangar Rental Dec 1, 2008- Jun	00241687	605510
1/8/2009	5,304.38	AP00347597	DEPOSIT	00243183	605790

Remember, Dr. Lyman "emphasized strongly that the deal [lease of airplane N777AQ] is still in negotiation, and is not complete." The question, if it was not a done deal, why had Dr. Saunders already spent \$3,472 for recurrent training for her pilot, \$1,187.25 for a line description "Orlando, FL, an unspecified reimbursement of \$18.05, and hangar rental for December – all of which are paid by taxpayers and students. Again, are President Saunders and Provost Lyman dishonest, incompetent or both?

Keep in mind, recessions occur with regularity. They are inevitable, recurring economic events, occurring many times during Drs. Saunders' and Lyman's lifetimes, if they were paying attention. Since Dr. Saunders is [publicly playing the business card](#), she should have anticipated and planned for the inevitable economic downturn—for example, by not wasting millions on an absurdly expensive and inefficient airplane, and other wasteful expenditures we will explore in future reports.