

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

Part 8

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 through 7 which provide a context for Part 8 and the documents obtained from USM in a Mississippi Open Records request that are the sources of information concerning the plane and passenger usage, costs, lease agreements, etc.

Part 8 advances an idea that our leaders persist in the deception about their airplane.

At the Faculty Senate meeting on December 5, 2008, "The Provost queried ... whether faculty will cease flying because of budget restraints. 'We can't stop doing business, and we must find revenue strains outside the normal.' The hope is that the airplane will do this."

Provost Lyman was holding out the hope that the lease/purchase of an airplane would help "find revenue strains outside the normal." This is not just flying in the face of facts as reported in Parts 1 through 7, but is a shameful snake oil pitch. Provost Lyman's exaggerated marketing ploy is nothing short of a President Saunders' dose of public relations nonsense. Contrary to Dr. Lyman's claims, there is no flight schedule, faculty do not use Dr. Saunders' airplane. The almost exclusive use of the plane is for the convenience of Dr. Saunders, her husband, senior administrators, members of the IHL and their spouses, and politicians – sometimes euphemistically referred to in invoices as "guests". The trouble is the nonsense costs taxpayers and students millions. Unfortunately, Dr. Saunders' airplane is not the only expensive nonsense perpetrated by President Saunders.

Who in authority will act for the taxpayers and students?