

CoB News, 15 September 2008

Priorities

With a USM co-ed in the intensive care unit at Forrest General Hospital who is being treated for alcohol poisoning as a result of an on-campus hazing incident, it is difficult to believe that USM President Martha Saunders could turn to relaxation and enjoyment. But, if her [8-Sept-08](#) blog is any indication, that is exactly what she did two weekends ago by traveling to USM's football game at Auburn.



Saunders' blog on that day speaks with pride about the resiliency of the Southern Miss fan delegation, and it even provides a snapshot (see above) of that day's fan revelry. At one point Saunders writes that she appreciated the warm welcome that she and other USM fans received in Auburn, and that she had written a letter to the AU president stating as much. What is not discussed in the blog is whether Saunders and Joe Bailey traveled to Auburn by USM plane, something that readers of USMNEWS.net will also be interested in if one of our letters to the editor (see below) is typical.

Nail's First Foray

New CoB dean Lance Nail has convened his first official CoB-wide faculty meeting, and some early reports are starting to reach USMNEWS.net headquarters. The meeting, which lasted the better part of two hours, was attended by USM President Martha Saunders and USM Provost Bob Lyman. The groundwork was laid for a floor of "Academically Qualified" or better for all CoB faculty, and it is becoming clear that Nail wants *real* academic research to be the coin of the realm. In Nail's CoB, research will drive everything from annual evaluations and merit raises to teaching loads and summer research grants. Though it remains to be seen how much of this new program Nail can manage to push through, sources say it is the kind of start that brings hope to those who wish for

the CoB to return to the prominence it had during the Tyrone Black administration. Stay tuned to USMNEWS.net . . . maybe something really good is unfolding.

Letters to the Editor

Dear USM news,

I sent the following e-mail to a reporter at [*The Hattiesburg American*] . . . Please include it in your letters section . . .

. . . the other day USM president Martha Saunders said in her blog that she traveled to the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville for her annual physical. Her blog raises any number of interesting questions that I would think [*The Hattiesburg American*] would want to investigate. What's so wrong with Forrest General Hospital and Wesley Medical Center that Saunders can't get something as simple as a physical at either one? Did Saunders fly to Jacksonville in the USM plane? If not, did she use commercial air and file for reimbursement through USM/Mississippi? If she drove, did she claim a mileage reimbursement from USM? She used her Mississippi Blue Cross coverage to see the Mayo doctor in Florida. Why should Mississippi taxpayers pay extra for Saunders to use an out of plan doctor/hospital for something as routine as a physical? The whole thing sounds suspect.

Thank you,

<name withheld>

Dear USMNEWS,

Yesterday I read your story about the bad trade involving several economics faculties. One thing your story did not mention and could have is that the former faculties were paid much less than the newer faculties who are also less productive (which your report did show). The college is paying more for less which is something that can be pointed out in future stories like that one.

<name withheld>