

CoB News, 24 November 2008

Carr Making Plans

Sources say that some in the CoB have doubted whether or not associate professor of management, Jon Carr, is *really* scheduled to depart the CoB in December of 2008 for a new post at Texas Christian University. Now, with the news that Carr informed the University of Research Council of his imminent departure, those doubts can be put to rest. According to the October 2008 Meeting Minutes of the URC (bottom of page 2), a council that Carr currently serves on, Carr informed fellow Council members that he will soon be departing USM (see inserted below).

Dr. John Carr reported that he is leaving the University in January 2009. His replacement will be assigned by the Dean of his college.

What strikes USMNEWS.net sources most about this news, however, is Carr's statement (to the URC) that his replacement on the URC will soon be "assigned" by new CoB dean, Lance Nail. According to sources, Carr's replacement should instead be "elected" by CoB faculty.



Jon Carr

Given Carr's statement, some CoBers are now likely questioning Nail's commitment to faculty governance.

The Beechcraft Queen

Judging by the behavior of USM president, Martha Saunders, one would never believe that Mississippi is in the grips of major economic crises. Yet despite the realities all around her, Saunders recently convinced Mississippi's IHL to get behind her idea to lease a Beechcraft King Air 200 aircraft for the period 1-Dec-2008 through 30-Nov-2013. And, according to the insert below, the cost to USM of the lease agreement is projected at \$1,890,169.67.

2. USM – USM Foundation – Approval of Lease Agreement

The University of Southern Mississippi requests approval to enter a five-year lease agreement with the University of Southern Mississippi Foundation to lease a Beechcraft King Air 200 aircraft (N777AQ). The term of the lease is effective upon USM Foundation's acquisition of the aircraft projected to be December 1, 2008 to November 30, 2013.

Lease payments will be issued monthly with the first 59 payments in equal monthly installments of \$16,662.98 and the 60th payment including a final balloon payment of \$907,053.85. The total cost for the lease is \$1,890,169.67.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Pending changes recommended by the Attorney General's Office and receipt of a revised lease payment schedule, Board staff recommends approval of this item.

As the insert above points out, USM will be making monthly lease payments of \$16,662.98 in each of the first 59 months of the lease agreement. The final lease payment for the BKA 200 (see below) is a balloon payment of \$907,053.85.



According to information received by USMNEWS.net, the BKA 200 is a twin engine turbo prop aircraft with an air-conditioned and pressurized cabin that seats 8-10 passengers and travels at speeds of up to 285 mph. The BKA 200 shown above and below is owned by Iowa State University.



Since arriving at USM in May of 2007, sources say that Saunders has shown an alarming and disturbing penchant for spending MS taxpayers' funds in an ostentatious manner. Prior [reports](#) here at USMNEWS.net [uncovered](#) the IHL's funding, to the tune of \$325,000, of the renovations of the bedroom wing of the USM president's mansion. With all that is happening in the U.S. regarding job losses, bankruptcies, and plunges in the stock market, one would think that Saunders would show some restraint in her use of MS taxpayers' hard-earned income.