

CoB News, 3 October 2007

Core Dialogues

As CoB faculty await more information about how new USM President Martha Saunders feels about the business school, sources continue to report to USMNEWS.NET that the CoB sits at the bottom of her list of priorities. Little is known at this time about what her top priorities are. We do, however, have some information about what has piqued Saunders' interest from the *Core Dialogues* process that Saunders kicked-off at the Fall 2007 USM Convocation. Here's word from her latest blog:

OCTOBER 2, 2007

Creative Stuff

I've attended all three of the campus dialogues held to date. They've been entertaining AND uplifting. I knew we had a lot of creative people at Southern Miss, but had no idea just how imaginative they can be. As we dreamed about the future, some interesting ideas sprang up. A monorail for the Hattiesburg campus? A football team on the coast? 100% graduation rate (I could get excited about that.)

Joe and I saw our students perform Electra on Sunday afternoon. It was a great presentation. I have recommended it to friends. There will be more performances this week.

According to Saunders' 2-Oct-07 blog entry, three things that have sparked her interest from the *Core Dialogues* so far are:

- A monorail for the USM-H campus
- A football team for the Coast
- 100% percent graduation rate

According to sources, her expression of interest in these items does little to inspire confidence in Saunders' leadership abilities. One only has to recall the Gregg Lassen campus trolleys debacle from early in the Thames Administration to realize that a monorail project would be a complete disaster. How about a football team for the Coast? Now there's a sure fire way to create the sense of "oneness" between USM-H and USM-GC. I'm sure head coach Jeff Bower would love the prospect of having to recruit against another USM football program for the high school and junior college talent on the Coast. A gridiron split would also likely do wonders for game day attendance and Eagle Club membership. As for the final idea, can you say "diploma mill?" If you think things can't get any wackier at USM, it looks like you should attend a *Core Dialogues* meeting (or two) just to keep yourself grounded.

"Positive Momentum" Building for Dean Search

With all of the buzz about the CoB's search for a new Dean (for 2008-09), the future is looking bright for USM's College of Business. We don't know what EFIB Chair George Carter was talking about when he said that this institution (USM/CoB) is rapidly spiraling down.