

DEAR USMNEWS.NET

Dear usmnews.net,

How much more money is Southern Miss going to waste on nonsense wholly unrelated to the academic mission of the university?

Name withheld by request

Dear Name Withheld,

The answer to your question is anyone's guess. We already know about nearly three quarters of a [million dollars](#) to a friend of Martha Saunders for not very creative public relations. More than [one hundred thousand dollars](#) for a vanity publication entitled *Treasured Past, Golden Future*. More than two million dollars to pay off a [failed head football coach](#)? More than \$5500 per flight hour for [a vanity airplane](#) totalling some three quarters of a million dollars in the first eighteen months of the lease. A [half million dollars](#) for Samsung Tablets for a selected few students, faculty and personnel that resulted in scandal and lost jobs? Who knows how much spent to prosecute numerous [casually made](#) claims "dangerous" faculty, but certainly considerably more than two million dollars. All of this money was wasted while Southern Miss shut down various programs, including its economics department.

One can only hope, if not really expect, that someone will see the light and use taxpayer and tuition dollars to better purposes.