

Do You Think President Saunders is Overly Concerned with the 29 Terminated Faculty?

Many members of the USM faculty and wider community are doubtful that USM president Martha Saunders' show of concern for the plight of the 29 tenured and tenure-track faculty that she terminated on 26-Aug-2010 is genuine. The news that she hurried out of the state – to the USM vs. South Carolina football game on 2-Sept-2010 – after announcing the cuts to the general public on 30-Aug-2010, and dealing with them a bit more on 31-Aug-2010, has bothered many over the past day or so. The USM family's feelings, at least with regard to Saunders' escape to South Carolina, may be injured even more by this report, which is a one photo illustrated history of Saunders' last 24 hours. That single photo is inserted below:



As explained to USMNEWS.net, the photo above depicts Saunders and husband Joe Bailey boarding a mini-bus from a Columbia hotel on their way to USC's stadium. One can tell from the photo that it is early evening, and the setting sun is calling 80,000 college football fans to the nearby stadium. Both Saunders and Bailey seem continents away, emotionally at least, from the troubles of many back in Hattiesburg. Of course, USM was soundly whipped by the Gamecocks, 13-41. Even with the loss, which created a three-game losing streak for USM, Saunders recently approved a \$35,000 raise for head coach Larry Fedora, bringing his *base pay* up to \$685,000.