

## *Editorial*

### **MARTHA SAUNDERS' "SEPARATION" AGREEMENT**

We recalled the first anniversary of Martha Saunders' resignation last Friday. And it occurred to us that we have not published Saunders' "SEPARATION AGREEMENT AND GENERAL RELEASE" that we obtained through a Mississippi Open Records Act request. [Click here for the document.](#)

Paragraph 2, clearly indicates she was fired, forthwith as of the date of the "SEPARATION AGREEMENT" and public announcement on April 23, 2012:

2. Dr. Saunders ***shall*** resign as President of the University of Southern Mississippi (USM) effective June 30, 2012 and the Board agrees to accept Dr. Saunders' resignation. Such resignation terminates the employment contract between the Board and Dr. Saunders as President of USM as of the effective date of such resignation. ***The parties hereto also agree that Dr. Saunders will not make or order any USM personnel decision from the date [April 23, 2012] of execution of this agreement and will coordinate transitional-related duties with the interim USM President.*** [Emphasis added.]

We are still asking WHAT HAPPENED? Did she simply make one too many publicly embarrassing mistakes? Was it one final act of costly incompetence.

The IHL is a public institution and acts, with the permission of Mississippi leadership, like a gang running a Banana Republic. We may not know precisely why Saunders was fired, but we do know that as long as the IHL keeps the reasons secret, and the reasons many other administrators were fired over the past couple decades, the misconduct and incompetence will continue. Keep in mind, regardless of what the IHL leadership claims, they are protecting themselves, too. They participate in hiring university leaders (in secret) and participate in their decisions. If you don't believe that the IHL is involved in decisions at the state universities, read any "Board Book." See, for example, <http://www.mississippi.edu/board/downloads/boardbooks/1304.pdf>