

### **Frivolous Expenditures Are Bad PR**

Given President Saunders' [extensive education in communications and public relations](#), I would expect that she would have refrained from purchasing a two million dollar plane at the onset of a recession. If she didn't know the probable impact of a recession, an advisor should have told her to expect that state revenues, and therefore funding to state schools, would decline.

President Saunders is the chief administrative officer of a state school whose students are often among the first generation in their families to go to college. That should cause President Saunders to reject frivolous expenditures like her [two million dollar plane](#) that does not contribute to educating students or more efficient operations of the school. Now, she might act, however belatedly, to promote a favorable public image and reducing a frivolous expenditure by returning the plane, assuming she can extricate herself from the lease/purchase contract or alternatively by selling it. More importantly, the plane is only one obvious excessive expenditure of taxpayer/student funds. Since President Saunders apparently needs sound financial advice, if not PR suggestions, interested faculty, would almost certainly volunteer to help. As a basis to provide sound advice, faculty should have access to complete detailed financial records of USM.

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