

## QUESTION: WHOSE PLANE IS THIS?

Why do USM students and faculty pay for N777AQ,  
while IHL members seem to use it more than anyone else?

### To Oxford, MS by way of Meridian, MS

On April 9, 2010, a USM Intradepartmental Invoice shows a round trip on N777AQ to Oxford, MS that took 2.0 flight hours. However, a USM Pilots' Trip Log showing two pilots, Messrs. Allen and Price, represents that on April 9, 2010, airplane N777AQ flew to Meridian, MS in .3 hours then on to Oxford, MS in .7 hours and back to Meridian and Hattiesburg in 1.0 hours. The passengers are different on the two records, too. According to the Pilots' Trip Log the passengers were Saunders, Blakeslee-IHL member, and Robinson-IHL member. According to the Interdepartmental Invoice the passengers were Saunders, Blakeslee-IHL member, Robinson-IHL member, Smith-IHL member, and Wade Jones. The inconsistent records are of suspect reliability.

King Air N777AQ Trip Log						
Date(s)	Destination(s)	Passenger Name(s)				
4-9-10	Meridian, MS	B. Saunders, Ed Blakeslee, Robin Robinson				
Ldgs 1	Cycles 1	Pilots Allen / Price	Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trng <input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>	
Hobbs Mtr	In 1712.1	Out 1711.8	= 0.3 hrs total			

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Date	Destination(s)	Passenger Names				
4-9-10	OXFORD, MS	B. Saunders, Ed Blakeslee, Robin Robinson				
Ldgs 1	Cycles 1	Pilots Allen / Price	Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trng <input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>	
Hobbs Mtr	In 1712.2	Out 1712.1	= 0.7 hrs total			

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Date	Destination(s)	Passenger Names				
4-9-10	Meridian-Hattiesburg	Saunders, E. Blakeslee, R. Robinson				
Ldgs 2	Cycles 2	Pilots Allen / Price	Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trng <input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>	
Hobbs Mtr	In 1713.8	Out 1712.8	= 1.0 hrs total			



students'. What does **\$12,375.34** mean to a student? A faculty member – particularly one who has recently been handed a terminal contract?

IHL members seem to fly airplane N777AQ more than anyone else. Why should USM students and faculty pay for it?

### Context

If you are a new reader of this series, catch up by reviewing [A Brief History of Saunders' "Lease" of airplane N777AQ During a Recession, Part 1](#). That report provides background information concerning the actual costs for the first 17 months of an airplane N777AQ leased by President Saunders for a 60-month period. For example, USM documents report total actual cost of **\$591,231.71** during the first 17 months of airplane N777AQ operations.

Interdepartmental Invoices for 30 flights were provided in an initial response from USM to a MORA request concerning the airplane President Saunders leases and pays for with Mississippi taxpayer and student dollars. Although the MORA request was for all records related to the plane, USM's response was incomplete. When legal counsel followed up concerning the inadequate response, the University produced more documents. [usmnews.net](#) reporters are currently reviewing the additional documents and there are reasons to believe the response was again incomplete.

### **WHO'S MONITORING THESE "PUBLIC SERVANTS"?**

The incomplete response to our MORA request, as exemplified above, signals irresponsible accountability and questionable use of taxpayer, student, and faculty resources.

Is anyone holding USM and IHL administrators accountable? IHL members blessed the lease/purchase of the plane. Why not? IHL members are enjoying the use of the plane **at no cost**. So, do not expect the IHL to do its oversight responsibility and hold President Saunders accountable for this extravagant expenditure of USM student and faculty resources. **And, she's giving it away at the same time she's terminating USM academic programs and faculty**. Unless USM faculty and students take charge of their destiny, President Saunders will continue to implement her own vision which, increasingly does not include them.

Stay tuned to [usmnews.net](#) for cost analyses of the remaining flights aboard President Saunders' plane.