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 Columbus, MS (Golden Triangle)

On September 3, 2009, a USM Pilots' Trip Log reported that Martha Saunders, Ed Blakeslee—IHL member and Christine Pickering—IHL member and Pickering's spouse, Brent, flew on N777AQ to Columbus, MS. IHL personnel again outnumber USM personnel as passengers aboard the flight. The Pilots Trip Log shows two pilots flew the plane, Kilgore and Price, and the trip took 1.7 flight hours. No purpose was given for the flight. The charge for the flight according to the Interdepartmental Invoice was the "President's Office"—that is, students and faculty at USM.

	King Air N777AQ Trip Log							
Date(s)	Destination(s)	Passenger Name(s)						
9-2.09	Columbus/Golden Transfe	Day Rouse, Para Rouse, Robin Robinson						
Ldgs_{	Cycles Pilots Kilgere / Pr	Bus. Trng Maintenance						
Hobbs Mtr	In 1662. Out 1661.6	= <u>0.5</u> hrs total						
Date	Destination(s)	Passenger Names						
9-2-09	Hattiesburg, MS	,						
Ldgs	Cycles 1 Pilots Kilgere/Pr	CC Bus. / Trng Maintenance						
Hobbs Mtr	In 1662. 8 Out 1662.1	CC Bus. Trng Maintenance						
Date	Destination(s)	Passenger Names						
9-3-09	Columbus/Golden Triangle Ost	R Dr. Sounders, Ed Blokeslee, Christy Rekering, Kent 1						
Ldgs 1	Cycles Pilots Kilgore / A	Bus Trng Maintenance						
Hobbs Mtr	in 1463.6 Out 1662.8	= hrs total						

King Air N777AQ Trip Log

Date(s)	Destination(s)		Passenger Name(s)				
9-3-09	Hatties	Hattiesburg, ms		Dr. Saunders			
Ldgs Hobbs Mtr	Cycles	Pilots Kilgore / Pric	e Bus.	✓ Trng hrs total	Maintenance		
Date	Destination(s)		Passenger Nam	es			
9-4-09	Golden Trian	gle, ms					
		Out 1664.5			Maintenance		
<u>Date</u> 9.4.09	Destination(s) Hattiesburg	, MS	Passenger Nam Doug & Pam K Ed Blakesle	Couse Boons + 1	Kristy Ackerny, Robin Robinson 55, Elizabeth Ross		
		Pilots Kilgore/Prid			Maintenance		

		THE UNIVE		ENTAL INVO		Depart Depart	nert Day
CHARGE					CHEDIT	Airplane Operations	
Commun.	President's Offi	365.0001 106.4001			_	SECO.	255-4126 PADE 10088
QUARTEY	DESCRIPTION OF G	DODS ON SERV	ACES, NO.10	NO DATES OF BE	PVCE	LINET PRICE	AMOUNT
1	1.7 Hour Trip to West Po Revot Pickering	ried for Dr. 5	eunders Ed	BlakeslawChr	toty A	1,366.00	1,360.0
	Trip September 3, 2009						
						TOTAL	1,360.00
SPA APPROVAL F REQUIRES	NAME OF TAXABLE PARTY.	5476	_	PROMO APPROVA IF REQUIRE	N.,	arw.	un.
	COLIFTING INFORMATION	ACCOUNT	FLAG	MPTG	PROGRAM	PRESCRIPTION	AHDOM
BURNE	T STRINGS TO CHARGE FOR ES OR MATERIALS RECEIVED	804021	10H10	100001	56000		1360.0
ATRIANETS	OWNERSON SIX						
BUDGET STRINGS TO CREDIT FOR SALES OF SERVICES OR MATERIALS		664021	10110	120011	10000		5360.00
STORES.	MANAGEMENT TO						

Why should USM students and faculty pay for a plane used by IHL (and their spouses) for IHL purposes, whatever they may be? The costs are not trivial. For this flight alone, USM students and faculty paid for 1.7 flight hours x \$6,187.67 cost per flight hour = \$10,519.04 actual cost for the flight. (Remember, usmnews.net's computation of cost per flight hour does not include or amortize the \$907,053.85 balloon payment due on the 60th month. If that amount is included, the cost is substantially higher than \$6,187.67 per flight hour.)

Just what does \$10,519.04 mean to President Saunders? Ask her. She's not thinking clearly about it and may need to be jarred from her apparent stupor. Remember, it's not her money she's spending. It's taxpayers' and students' and has adverse consequences for faculty. What does \$10,519.04 mean to a student? A faculty member – particularly one who has recently been handed a terminal contract? She's mighty generous with others' resources.

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 <u>A Brief History of Saunders' "Lease" of airplane N777AQ During a Recession, Part 1</u>. 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.