

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 Madison, Then Greenwood MS

On September 12, 2009, a USM Pilots' Trip Log reported that Martha Saunders, Ed Blakeslee—IHL member, Doug Rouse—IHL member, Robin Robinson—IHL member, Allen Perry—IHL member, Doug Davis and Aubrey Lucas flew on N777AQ from Hattiesburg to Madison, MS to pick up Hank Bounds—IHL Commissioner. Then they all flew to Greenwood, MS. IHL members again outnumber USM personnel as passengers aboard the flight of N777AQ. The Pilot's Trip Log shows two pilots flew the plane, Cunningham and Price, and the trip took 1.7 flight hours. No purpose was given for the flight. However, 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)				
9-12-09	Madison	M. Saunders, Doug Rouse, Ed Blakeslee, Robin Robinson, Aubrey Lucas, Doug Davis, Allen Perry				
Ldgs 1	Cycles 1	Pilots Cunningham/Price	Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trng <input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>	
Hobbs Mtr	In 1666.1	Out 1665.8	= 0.3 hrs total			
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Date	Destination(s)	Passenger Names				
9-12-09	Greenwood	M. Saunders, Doug Rouse, Ed Blakeslee, Robin Robinson, Aubrey Lucas, Doug Davis, Allen Perry, Hank Bounds				
Ldgs 1	Cycles 1	Pilots Cunningham/Price	Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trng <input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>	
Hobbs Mtr	In 1666.7	Out 1666.1	= 0.6 hrs total			
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Date	Destination(s)	Passenger Names				
9-12-09	Hattiesburg, MS	M. Saunders, Doug Rouse, Ed Blakeslee, Robin Robinson, Aubrey Lucas, Doug Davis, Allen Perry, Hank Bounds				
Ldgs 1	Cycles 1	Pilots Cunningham/Price	Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trng <input type="checkbox"/>	Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/>	
Hobbs Mtr	In 1667.5	Out 1666.7	= 0.8 hrs total			

[illegible]

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.