

**A flight to Myrtle Beach, SC for a mere \$29,082.05:
President Saunders, have you lost your mind?**

Back from Myrtle Beach

On March 24, 2010, USM Pilots' Trip Log reported that **no passengers** were aboard N777AQ for a 2.1 hour flight to Myrtle Beach, NC at a cost of \$12,994.11 ($2.1 \times \$6,187.67$). Martha Saunders boarded N777AQ alone at Myrtle Beach, SC and flew 2.6 hours to Hattiesburg, MS at a cost of \$16,087.94 ($2.6 \times \$6,187.67$). We would expect that a flight of equal distance would take approximately the same amount of time. So, where did Saunders take her plane that extra half hour? But let's not let the real stupidity of this use of resources be lost on a relatively minor question, i.e., \$29,082.05 for a flight from Myrtle Beach, SC. The charge for the flight according to the Interdepartmental Invoice was the "President's Office" — that is, taxpayers and USM students and faculty.

This trip highlights the utter waste of taxpayer, student, and faculty money and resources. What does a one way ticket from Myrtle Beach, SC to Hattiesburg, MS cost? Does such waste even warrant an answer? And it doesn't matter what President Saunders' purpose was, legitimate or otherwise. It's simply dumb.

King Air N777AQ Trip Log

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Destination(s)</u>	<u>Passenger Name(s)</u>
<u>3-18-10</u>	<u>Hattiesburg, MS</u>	<u>NONE</u>

Ldgs <u>1</u>	Cycles <u>1</u>	Pilots <u>Cunningham, Price</u>	Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trng <u> </u>	Maintenance <u> </u>
Hobbs Mtr	In <u>1707.1</u>	Out <u>1706.4</u>	=	<u>0.7</u>	hrs total

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination(s)</u>	<u>Passenger Names</u>
<u>3-24-10</u>	<u>Myrtle Beach</u>	<u>NONE</u>

Ldgs <u>1</u>	Cycles <u>1</u>	Pilots <u>Allen, Price</u>	Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trng <u> </u>	Maintenance <u> </u>
Hobbs Mtr	In <u>1709.2</u>	Out <u>1707.1</u>	=	<u>2.1</u>	hrs total

<u>Date</u>	<u>Destination(s)</u>	<u>Passenger Names</u>
<u>3-24-10</u>	<u>Hattiesburg, MS</u>	<u>M. Saunders</u>

Ldgs <u>1</u>	Cycles <u>1</u>	Pilots <u>Allen, Price</u>	Bus. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Trng <u> </u>	Maintenance <u> </u>
Hobbs Mtr	In <u>1711.4</u>	Out <u>1709.2</u>	=	<u>2.6</u>	hrs total

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.