

## Special Report

# Saundersgate

The number of scandals - aka “\_\_gates” - that dogged the Martha Saunders administration of USM (2007-12) is, according to sources, mind boggling. From “Tabletgate” to “Boudoirgate,” the amount of student and taxpayer funds lost in such ill-advised endeavors has not heretofore been counted. This particular *Special Report* addresses that accounting by providing some estimates in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Saundersgate Estimates**

Saundersgate	Description	Cost Estimate
“PlaneGate”	Lease and maintenance of Beechcraft King Air 200 (includes lease and care)	\$2.390 Million
“Tabletgate”	Purchase of Samsung Galaxy Tab tablets (for select students) without IHL authorization	\$0.440 Million
“Boudoirgate”	Use of general university funds to renovate master bedroom suite in president’s mansion	\$0.329 Million
“Amodeogate”	Repeated use (hiring) of Pensacola-based <i>Idgroup</i> , headed by long-time Saunders friend Mona Amodeo, to develop various public relations efforts for USM	\$0.725 Million
“ADdeficitgate”	Operating deficit in the USM Athletics Department that was made public during the 2011-12 academic year	\$1.195 Million
“Retentiongate”	Hiring and support of new Assistant Provost for Retention, whose efforts proved, according to public statements from Saunders, futile	\$0.375 Million
“BoMorgangate”	Hiring and support of new “university historian” Bo Morgan, from Delta State, in order to pen centennial history of USM - <i>Treasured Past, Golden Future</i>	\$0.168 Million
		<b>\$5.622 Million</b>

The numbers in Table 1 above indicate that seven (7) of the scandals that dogged USM during Saunders’ reign exceed the amazing sum of \$5.6 million. These numbers suggest that the average Saundersgate scandal cost USM students and taxpayers about \$800,000, with a range of \$168,000 to \$2.39 million. These numbers are, to sources at least, simply staggering.

For readers interested in the specifics of these particular scandals, there are numerous reports and editorials available here at [USMNEWS.net](http://USMNEWS.net). Feel free to use the custom Google search toolbar located on the main page.