

Airfarce One or IHL Air?

Still Squandering Millions on Airplane N777AQ

usmnews.net recently acquired another set of information USM and IHL administrators would never reveal on its own. As a matter of fact, with regard to the current series reporting the use and actual cost of airplane N777AQ, USM administrators have materially misrepresented information about the cost of N777AQ. Former-president Martha Saunders and former provost Lyman publicly and repeatedly reported the cost per flight hour of N777AQ is \$800. They were keen to boast about what a cost effective deal Mississippi taxpayers and USM students were getting with the purchase of N777AQ. We began reporting details and USM's costs as reflected in its internal records to expose the lie. Saunders and Lyman probably believed they could get away with it -- that no one would ever take the time and/or trouble using the Mississippi Open Records Act to obtain detailed cost and usage records, total the actual costs and the actual number of flight hours, and determine the real cost per flight hour of N777AQ.

Our updated actual cash cost per flight hour is \$4,840. If the nearly one million dollar balloon payment is included, the total cost per flight hour is \$6,941. If someone sold you a car for \$20,000 and handed you a bill for \$173,525, what would you call her?

On July 18 and 19, 2012, Mississippi taxpayers and USM students were kind enough to allow IHL to use N777AQ. Of course, taxpayers and students didn't know they had allowed IHL to use N777AQ. They also didn't know the 4.7 flight hours cost: \$32,623.

The University did not provide the "Interdepartmental Invoice" for this use. usmnews.net has repeatedly asked for the documents, but to date, USM has been remiss providing them. We don't know the reasons, but we do know from the pilot's trip log who was aboard the N777AQ and the destinations.

The passengers included the following IHL members:

Hal Parker
Harry Sims
Karen Cummins (Bill Cummins, not an IHL member, accompanied Karen)
Ford Dye
Shane Hooper

On July 18 and 19, this group of IHL members and Mr. Cummins were flown around Mississippi. On July 18, their destinations included Madison County airport, University-Oxford airport, Natchez-Adams County airport, and Hattiesburg. On July 19, destinations included Greenwood-Leflore airport, Cleveland Municipal airport, Bruce Campbell Field airport Madison, and Hattiesburg.

Not that it makes much sense given the waste of educational resources, but USM students might note that no students from UM, MSU, or any other state university kicked in even one cent to

cover costs. (How do we know that no one kicked in a penny? We asked for those records and were told none existed.)

So, USM students while your tuition and fees have steadily climbed, aren't you glad part of that money went to pay \$32,622.70 to provide air taxi services for the IHL?