

USM Student Posts YouTube Video Rant to Saunders

URGES OTHER DISGRUNTLED STUDENTS TO FOLLOW LEAD

Charlie Davis, a junior/senior theater major at USM, [has posted](#) a YouTube video rant to USM president Martha Saunders, expressing his dissatisfaction with the Saunders administration's handling of USM's budgetary affairs since 2009. At the beginning of the video rant (see video screen below), Davis remarks that he is thankful his own academic program has not yet been cut by Saunders, though he mentions that his fear is that it will soon fall victim to the budget-cutting process. Later, Davis tells Saunders via the video that he wants her to know how the USM students feel about the program eliminations that have occurred to date - adding that he is *not* referring to "the SGA students" who are, according to Davis, in cahoots with Saunders and do not represent "the *real* [USM] students too well."



At a few points during the video rant, Davis shouts that the students "feel horrible" about the cuts to programs and the termination of faculty, such as those occurring with deaf education and religion at USM.

"We feel horrible!"

Davis also criticizes Saunders' emphasis on reshaping USM's *image*, rather than in dealing with the actual budget problems affecting the entire campus. In doing so, he displays a t-shirt with USM's former logo or seal, commenting that he is fond of the traditional image portrayed by the logo (see insert below, left). He then presents an image of the new logo, which he states appears to have been designed by a community college design student who realized at 11 p.m. that he/she had to design a school seal and turn it in by 12 a.m., or in just one hour (see logo circled in gold in the insert below, right).



Perhaps Davis' strongest remarks compare Saunders' and her executive cabinet's actions to those of the BP executives following the spring 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. By this time in the video

rant, Davis has hit on a number of USM students' criticisms of Saunders and her executive cabinet. Many of these are bulleted below:

- Saunders doesn't care about the students
- parking is terrible, yet Saunders has her own dedicated spot
- Saunders is wasting money reshaping USM's image
- Saunders has a "cushy job" running USM
- Saunders wears designer clothes, including expensive pearls
- Saunders doesn't have to worry about anything, unlike students and faculty
- USM's image is being tarnished by Saunders' actions
- Saunders' house (presidential mansion) has been in *Southern Living*
- Saunders hangs out with Jimmy Buffett
- Saunders is "set for life," with a great pension ahead of her

By the end of the video rant, Davis is on to recent coverage of Saunders by USM's newspaper, *The Student Printz*. He provides his take on two recent *TSP* editorial cartoons of Saunders, depicting her cutting programs, colleges, and reducing USM's stature to that of a junior college.

"It's not really a good depiction of you, Martha."



"Imperialist Cow"

Here, Davis remarks that the cartoons do not represent Saunders in a positive light, stating the cartoons are "not really a good depiction of you, Martha." He also adds that the Latin phrase in the mock USM seal in one of the two cartoons translates to "Imperialist Cow," which Davis says that students think is an appropriate description of Saunders.

Davis' YouTube video rant to Saunders was uploaded back on 15-September-2010, and so far it has been viewed about 125 times. Whether or not other USM students follow his lead, by producing their own video rants, remains to be seen. If so, USMNEWS.net will be there to cover those as well.