

# “Stupid is as stupid does”

Forrest Gump

In the May 19, 2014 Chronicle of Higher Education, [Arthur F. Kirk, Jr.](#) tried to make the case that government is the cause of the increase in costs of higher education.

Much, but certainly not all, of the much-maligned "administrative bloat" is driven by external forces, societal demands, and regulations from the federal government, the states, the NCAA, accreditors, and insurers. In addition to state and local laws, higher-education institutions are required to comply with federal laws too numerous to count.

Much of Mr. Kirk's argument is specious. For example, participation in Big Money/Big Cost athletics is a choice, not a governmental requirement. But for the fun, assume he's has a point that government requirements increase the cost of higher education. Government requirements don't give administrators carte blanche to act stupid:

For example, "University of Southern Mississippi then-President Martha Saunders acquired an airplane, N777AQ, with taxpayer and student money for university use, while she fired dozens of faculty during the Great Recession. Her miscreant behavior didn't stop with stupid. She publicly reported in several venues that the cost of N777AQ is \$800 per flight hour, when USM's own records, obtained through open records requests, report the cost at approximately \$7,000 per flight hour." We reported this publicly at [usmnews.net](#) as well as other public media. The last time we checked, current-President Bennett continues to pay the exorbitant costs of N777AQ.

Administrators! When they surround themselves with like-minded bureaucrats, watch them carefully.

For details, see, "A university president buys a multi-million dollar airplane while firing dozens of faculty during the Great Recession..." available at Amazon. Also, see, [usmnews.net](#) for many more reports.

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