

**President Saunders: Inefficient and Ineffective
Use of Students' and Taxpayers' Money**

Part 11, Costs and Uses of King Air N777AQ

Bureaucrats blow through your money with the greatest of ease.

usmnews.net reports Martha Saunders' 2011 cost and use of a multi-million dollar airplane, King Air N777AQ. You have a right to know. Your money is paying for it.

Our news in this series continues with records recently received from USM via open records requests. This report is entitled **“Bureaucrats blow through your money with the greatest of ease”** for good reason.

The passengers on the March 23, 2011 flight were Martha Saunders and Joe Bailey [Saunders' husband]. According to USM [Interdepartmental Invoice](#), dated “4/12/2011,” the “Purpose [was]: SACS Meeting.” The invoice also reports “3.9 Hour round Trip to Austin, TX for Dr. Martha Saunders and Joe Bailey.”

However, the pilots' “King Air N777AQ Trip Log” reports that the plane was flown to Austin, TX to [“Pickup M. Saunders, J. Bailey.”](#) They were already in Austin, TX! Why couldn't Saunders and Bailey have gotten back to Hattiesburg in the same way they got to Austin, TX? That question will be more compelling after we discuss the cost of this use of N777AQ.

Here's what it cost USM students and Mississippi taxpayers for just the flight:

\$21,454.29 = (\$5,501.10 cost per flight hour X 3.9 actual flight hours) [For details measuring cost per flight hour based on USM's cost records, [click here](#).]

If the contractual obligation President Saunders signed for her airplane with regard to a balloon payment is included, the cost to USM students and Mississippi taxpayers is:

\$31,492.15 = (\$8,074.91 cost per flight hour X 3.9 actual flight hours)

Let me repeat that: the cost of this trip flight was **\$31,492.15**. And, let's assume that the SACS trip was necessary, you should ask what would it have cost to fly Saunders first class from Austin, TX to Hattiesburg, MS? Let's be generous and assume it cost \$1,500.

What choice do you think Saunders would have taken if she were spending her own money? Don't have to guess on the answer to that question. And there's the rub, dear taxpayers and students, bureaucrats blow through your money with the greatest of ease.

This is truly a pitiful waste of student and taxpayer money.

IHL! How can you let this happen!?