It's not President Saunders' money.
Why should she care how she spends it?

Ed Kemp at the Hattiesburg American reported on January 22, 2012:

> The University of Southern Mississippi intends to build **a fence** along the Hardy Street side of its campus, with pedestrian safety cited as the key factor in the **brick-and-mortar** upgrade.
>
> [T]he fence will be **wrought iron, with brick columns** that for most of the project will **match the brick of the Centennial Gateway entrance**, unveiled in 2010. The fence itself will be 7 feet tall, with the columns slightly taller - between 8 to 10 feet - to match the gateway height.
>
> Physical Plant Director Chris Crenshaw was quoted as saying, "The **style and design** of the fencing and **brickwork** will blend with the **aesthetic beauty** of our campus."

Kemp also quotes President Saunders as saying "It's a very helpful device to channel pedestrians to a safe crosswalk."

(Emphasis added.)

However, Commenters on Kemp's article were near unanimous in considering Dr. Saunders' project ill-considered:

> #1: "I have so many concerns about these 'projects.' …"
>
> #2: "What a waste.…"
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> #3: "I don't get this…."
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> #4: "Talk about a waste…."
>
> #5: "maybe they can add some video cameras, search lights and razor wire to finish the look…."

(Do any politicians and administrators ever wonder why citizens are fed up with administrative bloat and administrative extravagance at their expense?)

At an estimated cost to taxpayers of more than half a million dollars, did President Saunders consider alternative "helpful devices to channel pedestrians"? If she did, why not report the alternatives, if she considered any?

Is Dr. Saunders' alleged concerns for safety nothing more than a ploy to distract taxpayers from her real goal? If she is concerned about safety, does she really think our

students are so stupid that they are unable to cross the road without the security of a fence?

If Dr. Saunders believes, as I do, that our students are far from stupid, we must consider other reasons for her massive waste of student and taxpayer resources. Is the primary goal of this extravagant brick-and-mortar, wrought iron fence a continuation of President Saunders' wasteful obsession with implementing her notion of beautifying the campus at taxpayer and student expense? Do her wasteful expenditures on this wall improve the quality of education that our students receive? Do her wasteful expenditures increase students' pay upon graduation?

And it's hard to ignore the numerous, expensive, and apparently airbrushed pictures of President Saunders that accompany news stories about USM. What do these pictures cost and how much time does she spend posing for them? Does she spend as much time considering less costly ways of getting students across Hardy Street than spending half a million dollars of student and taxpayer money? Wise decisions, instead of airbrushed pictures, would be better suited for someone in a leadership position. After all, airbrushed pictures, discretely tinted hair and expensive clothes don't make a 64 year old look 25.