

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

Part 2

2011 Costs and Use of King Air N777AQ

Boy's Night Out

usmnews.net reports part 2 of President Saunders' costs and uses of a multi-million dollar airplane, King Air N777AQ, in 2011. You have a right to know. Your money is paying for it.

This series continues with records received from USM via Open Records requests. This report is entitled "Boy's Night Out" for good reason. The passengers on this flight were good ol' boys: Chad Driskell (President Saunders' executive assistant), Joe Bailey (President Saunders' husband), Charlie Sutherland, Evers Dillard, and Kim Bradley (president of the Hattiesburg City Council). The purpose was to fly the good ol' boys to the NCAA Regional Baseball Tournament in Atlanta, Georgia.

The pilots "Trip Log" recorded 2.7 flight hours.

Here's what it cost USM students and Mississippi taxpayers:

\$14,852.97 = (\$5,501.10 cost per flight hour X 2.7 actual flight hours)

[For details of measuring cost per flight hour based on USM's cost records, see, <http://www.usmnews.net/USMNews%2002%2014%202012%20N777AQ.pdf>]

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:

\$21,802.26 = (\$8,074.91 cost per flight hour X 2.7 actual flight hours)

We think you should ask yourselves, has President Saunders effectively and efficiently employed student/taxpayer money in satisfaction of the mission of Southern Miss – the education of students? In any way, does this expenditure advance the education of USM students?