

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

## Part 6

### IHL Takes Advantage of Students and Taxpayers, Again

usmews.net's review of President Saunders' use of a multi-million dollar airplane, King Air N777AQ, continues with the receipt of USM's cost records for 2011. As with previous reports of the 2011 cost records, we'll detail President Saunders' decision to undercharge—significantly undercharge—others for the use of N777AQ. At a minimum, we would expect President Saunders would recover the money students have actually paid for the airplane. After all, they paid for it and she is supposed to oversee the effective and efficient use of the money students pay for their education.

#### Memo to IHL: What right do you have taking USM students' money?

On June 15, 2011, the pilots' "[King Air N777AQ Trip Log](#)" reports that "M. Saunders [USM President], C. Driskell [Assistant to the President], D. Rouse [IHL member], E. Blakeslee, [IHL member], R. Robinson [IHL member]" fly via N777AQ. Pilots' log reported "Destinations": HBG, GWD [Greenwood], HBG, GWD, HBG." The purpose, according to "University of Southern Mississippi Invoice No.: 001-106" was "to [Transport \[IHL\] Board Members](#) to MVSU for the June 2011 Board Meeting." The invoice requests a payment from IHL in the amount of **\$1,040**. \$1,040 is arrived at by using the inaccurate charge of \$800 per flight hour times 2.6 flight hours divided by two. (President Saunders charges **\$800** per flight hour.) That amount is a significant undercharge for the actual cost. (For an explanation why it is inaccurate, [see, USM's own cost records.](#))

The actual cash outflow cost per flight hour is *not* \$800 per flight hour. According to USM's own current records, it is more than **\$5,500** in actual current cash outflow cost per flight hour. If the balloon payment of \$907,053.85 (which is contractually required to be paid at the end of the lease period) is included, the cost per flight hour is over **\$8,000**.

So, the IHL should have been charged **\$12,480** ([2.6 flight hours x \$8,000] times the proportional use by IHL member passengers, 3/5) for IHL's use of N777AQ. The IHL, for just this one use of N777AQ, owes Southern Miss' students an additional **\$11,440** (\$12,480 - \$1040). Other instances of IHL not reimbursing USM students for the significant costs and uses of N777AQ [have been reported](#) and will be the subject of future reports.

At a minimum, efficient and effective use of student and taxpayer money would dictate that the IHL reimburse for the actual cost of the trip. It would be difficult for

President Saunders to claim ignorance about the actual cost of N777AQ since usmnews.net has publicly reported and provided details from University records many times showing that her estimate of \$800 per flight hour is so low as to be irresponsible.

Now, with several years of actual cost data at Dr. Saunders' disposal, which usmnews.net has accessed through open records requests and to which President Saunders has access, the only rational conclusion is that Dr. Saunders is intentionally misrepresenting the cost per flight hour and incompetently overseeing the use of student and taxpayer money.