

IT'S NOT THEIR MONEY!

Why do Mississippi legislators and its governor use taxpayer dollars to support the USM Foundation when the Foundation is not subject to public accountability? Taxpayers pay hundreds of thousands in salaries, pension contributions, benefits as well as other operating expenses of the Foundation. The Foundation Director, who is a state employee, reports to and is evaluated by [USM President Saunders](#). Yet Mississippi taxpayers have no right to use the Mississippi Open Records Act to learn how the Foundation spends its/their money. Even though the USM Foundation is well known as an administrators' "[booze account](#)", state decision makers persist keeping it a secret financial arm of USM. Guess what happens when organizations hide what its administrators can do with its money? President Saunders has already told us that the Foundation is unable to fund the majority of its scholarships and endowed professorships. However, President Saunders still has money for an airplane. Who knows what other irrational expenditures administrators make when they are able to hide how they spend state money?

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