

UT-Tyler's Mabry Sounds a Bit Like USM's Saunders

A GUEST EDITORIAL

The usmnews.net breaking [report](#) entitled "UT-Tyler President Struggling to Contain Chaos" is very enlightening. It tells the story of a university president hanging on to any semblance of a university with a functioning business school by only his fingernails. What's worse is that in attempting to calm the UT-Tyler and Tyler, Texas, constituencies, like the Concerned Community of Tyler Businesses, President Rod Mabry sounds something like USM President Martha Saunders. His somewhat lame attempt to calm the crowd comes in item number two of his letter, "2. Enjoy your university; it's a wonderful one." Here Mabry spends two sizable paragraphs touting some of the great things going on at UT-Tyler. The problem is that these two paragraphs contain only brief mention of the debate team, the model UN, the student newspaper, and a concrete canoe-building contest among engineering students. The bulk of those two paragraphs is spent touting men's and women's soccer, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's golf, cross country, men's and women's basketball, baseball, and softball. For a President of the Tyler-based institution in the UT System to tout mainly sports teams' endeavors as marking a great school, when the UTS flagship is internationally known for sports championships, is laughable, and sad.

In reading reports on this website, I suspect that if Saunders were put into the position of having to write such a letter, she would tout football bowl games and the beginning of baseball season, à la her latest weblog, before noteworthy academic endeavors. Hopefully she would choose something meatier than a model UN, the student newspaper, and concrete canoes to give scant mention of academics, unlike Mabry in his recent calm-the-masses manifesto. Perhaps something more along the lines student academic awards and faculty accomplishments would make Saunders' cut. With Mabry now allowing UT-Tyler business Dean, Harold Doty, to remain in place, UT-Tyler's business faculty can only hope that the region and country will be watching. Reports are that *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and perhaps others, will be doing so. Maybe usmnews.net can stick around and join these organizations, telling more of the story of Doty's destructive leadership of the UT-Tyler business school. The news about what is going on that *is* getting out is certainly interesting and educational.