

RATR

"Ride all the rides..."

*Martha D. Saunders, President
University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39406-0001
601.266.5001*

President Saunders' new tag line is causing quite a buzz on campus and in the surrounding community. On the heels of her transparent anger at the "Impeach Saunders" opinions left on campus recently comes Martha's own continued insights at who she really is. The response to "Rides all the rides" (RATR) has been derisive laughter and bewilderment. For a self-proclaimed master of P.R., Martha has flubbed it yet again. One take on RATR is her main ride, the ever-perplexing airplane that she views as an entitlement; never mind \$30M+ in cuts over a 3-4 year period for Southern Miss, Martha's baby is, to use her own frequently used phrase about it, "off the table". For all of you who have constantly bristled under the "Southern Miss To The Top" (SMTTT) mantra, Martha brings good news! It is now dead. Go forth with banners raised high proclaiming "Southern Miss, Ride All the Rides". Another take on RATR is the amusement park sense in which case Martha's airplane, her expensively remodeled and redecorated mansion, and other toys, trips, and trinkets make her – in her own mind – the winner of the game. Is there no limit to the callousness of Martha Saunders? As she casually terminates faculty members (including tenured faculty) and staff, she sees no disconnect with jaunting off somewhere on her airplane. If the simmering discontent on campus and the minor and easily removable expressions left on campus bothers you Martha – and a \$1,000 reward says it does (by the way: what is the reward for the serial criminal stalking the Southern Miss campus?) – what do you think your campus environment will be when and if we all learn your new four year contract includes a raise when no one else has had a raise in 4 or 5 years? Even your (former?) liberal arts fans will not want to hear you spin that into anything. Your contract extension is a mystery to us all. The only viable explanation is the IHL board desires you to further dismantle Southern Miss to keep Ole Miss and State safe. How proud you must be.

SMRATR!