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Dear usmnews.net:

Following in the [RATR](#) tradition, have you heard anything about [President Martha] Saunders planning to upgrade the airplane so she will have faster trips and greater range?

Thanks.

[Name withheld]

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Dear usmnews.net,

The [news](#) about [Jonathan] Williams' rise to Chief Sustainability Officer (?) mentioned one interesting detail that even your reporters missed. In the [interview](#) that Williams did with USM people, he used the phrase “. . . prior to moving back to Hattiesburg I was . . .” in describing his move up the administration hierarchy at USM. I seem to recall that [your story](#) about how USM's history is about hiring locals to fill administrative slots.

In the [video interview](#) [president Martha] Saunders did with the retired judge/relative of USM's first president, the woman talked about growing up down the road from the college (USM). This *down the road from the college* theme is played out at USM, from Saunders, Shelby Thames, Bo Morgan, George Carter, and Frances Lucas, to many others you have written about. Do you think this theme has anything to do with why USM ranks so low nationally, and why USM's administration is always so bloated?

anonymous

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[President] Martha [Saunders] is [again hiding](#) behind committees and her cabinet, but where will she get the millions of dollars to cut if she "spares" all these programs and faculty members? For that matter, where will she get the money if she does not? Simple math shows us that there are insufficient proposed cuts for the anticipated budget shortfall. There is little chance that the economic situation in Mississippi will increase that much that soon. This appears to be a ruse to eliminate programs and people Martha does not want at her vision of Southern Miss.

Math Challenged