

Faculty Senate Watch

‘I [will] be Travelling a Bit this Summer’

USM PREZ MARTHA SAUNDERS TO ASSIST SACS/C-USA IN 2010

In her 4-June-2010 report to the USM faculty senate, USM president Martha Saunders informed senators that she will be “travelling a bit this summer” in fulfilling her duties as a member of the executive committee of SACS. Saunders stated that being an EC member for SACS involves going to a few more meetings each year than is required of members of SACS’ board of directors. The additional travelling will begin in about one week, with other trips to follow.

Saunders also hinted that there could also be additional meetings of the Conference-USA board of directors, which would require even greater travel for her. As Saunders explained, these additional meetings, should they occur, will likely be driven by all of the conference realignments that are taking place. At the time of this report, the University of Colorado has accepted an invitation to join the Pacific 10 Conference, while the University of Nebraska is reportedly also leaving the Big 12 Conference. In UN’s case, the destination appears to be the Big 10 Conference. Thus, it appears the additional meetings that Saunders expects will indeed come to fruition.

Reports here at USMNEWS.net [show](#) that Saunders is perfectly content making 17 minutes flights to Jackson, and 18 minute flights to Madison. Thus, believing that the USM plane will be used for trips to the SACS office in Decatur, Georgia, and for trips to the C-USA office in Irving, Texas, is not much of a stretch. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that the prospect of Saunders [using the USM plane](#) to get to these meetings will likely rub salt in some open wounds around the campus community. As reports here have pointed out, USM is coming out of a process that cut \$12 million from the FY2011 budget. And, it is about to enter a process where \$15 million to \$20 million will be cut from the FY2012 budget. These troubles provide the backdrop for thoughts of Saunders travelling here and there by air (in the USM plane).