

"Strategic Planning"

One of the things that revisiting President Saunders' early days as president has encouraged usmnews.net reporters to review is what she has actually accomplished. Dr. Saunders has announced many initiatives with great fanfare, but what have those initiatives accomplished?

For the past couple of years, the front page of the USM website has claimed:

There are several phases of planning underway and we want to keep you informed. As we listen and shape our dreams for the future of Southern Miss, these plans are vital links to turning our collective visions into reality. [Check here often](#), we're updating as we build the Southern Miss future.

We clicked through each of the planning phases but not much seems to have been reported since April 2009. [Phase II](#) (which follows the campus dialogues with Amodeo/idgroup) announces a strategic planning committee. We don't dispute that strategic planning is important to a university, a business or a family. However, what has the [strategic planning committee accomplished](#)? If the website is believed, it hasn't met since April 2009. No meetings have been announced and no minutes posted since April 2009. A handful of powerpoint slides filled with meaningless "data" presented in different formats and replete

with TBD are the last input to the committee offered by the strategic planning committee.

Dr. Saunders has nothing happened on our campus that might benefit from the work and input of a strategic planning committee? If the strategic planning committee has been meeting and accomplishing anything, wouldn't the campus benefit from the opportunity to review and have input into the committee's thoughts and conclusions? Or, is it just one more of President Saunders' meaningless publicity stunts that has fallen by the wayside?