

Administration Surrogates

HOW STANLEY HAUER THREW KATE GREENE UNDER THE BUS

A Guest Editorial

USM faculty have had to deal with [terrible central administrations](#) for far too long. The Shelby Thames Administration ran USM in what some called a plantation style [for five years](#), from 2002-07. Since May of 2007, current USM President Martha Saunders has been in charge. Despite what some faculty will say, Saunders represents little, if any, improvement over the situation that existed under Thames. Those who would say otherwise would likely need to think about whether they hold such a view only because Thames was so *bad* that almost anyone else would seem like an improvement, even if only a minor one.

All of the above points out that, administratively, things at USM since at least 2002 have been problematic enough for faculty without them having to deal with extra issues. So, when there are faculty who work to assist USM administrators in denying due process to other faculty and/or staff, things are complicated even further. Such appears to have been the case in Thames' handling of the infamous Gary Stringer-Frank Glamser situation. Then, USM economics professor George Carter [put the two](#) revered USM faculty in a [bad position](#) by [advising them](#) to [come forward](#), to Thames, with their evidence that Thames' Vice President for Research, Angie Godwin (then-Dvorak), had misrepresented herself on her curriculum vita.

Something [perhaps even worse than](#) the aforementioned Carter-Glamser/Stringer situation possibly occurred [as a part of](#) the recent (spring 2011) [suspension](#) of USM political science professor Kate Greene. [Some of](#) that story was told in the recent USMNEWS.net report entitled "Lyman, Faculty Senate Address 'Dangerous Faculty,'" part of which is inserted below.

Lyman, Faculty Senate Address "Dangerous Faculty" *New Report Includes Transcript from Faculty Senate Meeting*

Lyman – Well, let me say this, that it's not obviously a standard recommendation. One . . . one . . . And, you know I'm hampered, I can't talk about this, but one would think there might be factors that would've made that seem like a reasonable action.

Hauer – I need to speak up. The student involved is my advisee. And, the student came to me first. I called the chair, and then the Dean, and then we went to the Provost. The actions in that classroom, to a very mild-mannered and dutifully behaved student, were beyond egregious . . . So deeply offensive that I can't repeat them. Profoundly egregious.

Beckett – Well, we've heard other versions. We've talked to students in the class, and his actions were pretty egregious, to use . . .

As the insert above suggests, the transcript from the 6-May-2011 USM Faculty Senate meeting is a major part of that USMNEWS.net report. Part of that meeting pertained to the suspension of Greene, and the piece inserted above covers some of the conversation about the suspension that involved USM Provost Robert Lyman, and Faculty Senators Stan Hauer and Dave Beckett. As the insert points out, the student involved in Greene's suspension is Hauer's advisee, and Hauer and that student met shortly after the in-class altercation. As part of that meeting, Hauer states that he called the Department Chair, the Dean of the College of Arts & Letters, and then Provost Lyman about how "egregious" Greene's actions were toward the student. Beckett, on the other hand, follows Hauer's speech by indicating that there are multiple versions of what transpired in Greene's political science class that day, and that some versions paint the student, incoming USM SGA Vice President [Jeffery McClendon](#), in a negative light. Beckett, in fact, uses Hauer's term, "egregious," in describing the student's behavior that day.

Like the editorial linked above, no position is taken here regarding whom, Greene or McClendon, was (most) at fault for the in-class altercation that occurred several weeks ago. The position that is taken, however, is that Hauer's rush to judgment worked, along with subsequent actions taken by Saunders, to deny Greene due process. By contacting the COAL Dean and the USM Provost with the story that "a very mild-mannered" and "dutifully-behaved" student was verbally assaulted by Greene, Hauer let the USM administration know that a faculty leader, perhaps even a well-respected one, would tacitly, if not explicitly, approve of just about anything that the administration decided to do with Greene in the near term. Yet at the time Hauer made his series of phone calls/visits, McClendon was not in any physical danger, if he ever was at all. So, a visit with Greene and her chair first would have been a much more appropriate initial move for Hauer to make, with subsequent discussions with the Provost and others taking place soon thereafter. At no point, however, did Hauer attempt to get Greene's side of the situation, and judging from Beckett's comments and Hauer's responses to them, it doesn't seem as though Hauer ever solicited an account of the altercation from anyone other than McClendon, his advisee.

By now we all know that the Saunders Administration required Greene to submit to a psychiatric evaluation before returning to the classroom. Given that, after two weeks or so of suspension, Greene returned to *only* two of her three spring 2011 courses, we don't yet know whether Greene submitted to that requirement. What we do know is that another political science professor completed Greene's Supreme Court and Civil Liberties course, in which McClendon was enrolled. The Saunders Administration [has reason](#) to [dislike](#) Greene. Hauer's actions following the altercation played right into the Saunders Administration's hands. Perhaps McClendon knew Hauer would follow the course that he followed. Perhaps Hauer dislikes Greene as well. None of these possibilities leads to anything good for USM's rank-and-file faculty. This episode goes to show that Carteresque behavior still occurs on campus, and that all faculty have to be wary about who may be working behind the scenes for the central administration.