

Breaking News

No Good Deed Goes Unpunished

LONG BEACH – The recent series of stories about the mobbing of USMNEWS.NET editor Marc DePree by various officials in the central administration and College of Business at USM has sparked a great deal of interest with USMNEWS.NET readers. To add to that series, USMNEWS.NET reporters have obtained a copy of a so-called "mobbing letter" written by CoB accounting instructor John Brown. Brown's letter of 20-Aug-07, shown below, is written to SAIS Director Steven Jackson, and calls for Jackson to terminate the employment of DePree.

August 20, 2007

Steve Jackson, PhD, CPA
Interim Director
School of Accountancy and Information Systems
The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #5178
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39406

Re: Marc DePree, D.B.A.
Professor of Accounting

Dr. Jackson,

As our newly appointed Interim Director, I respectfully request that you immediately address the concerns of all faculty members relative to the continued employment of Dr. DePree. The continued employment of Dr. DePree would not only be detrimental to the University, it would also be disruptive to present faculty cohesiveness and new faculty hires.

Although I am a faculty member on the Gulf Coast campus, I have become aware of the long history of the negative impact that Dr. DePree has had on our University, specifically the School of Accountancy and Information Systems, through his use of a personal website and his position as a Professor. As you are aware, his reaction to a request to discontinue such activities was not well received by him at the Spring faculty meeting. It was at that time that I realized the extent of his anger toward our School and how futile it would be to attempt any type of dialog to address his activities. Dr. DePree's position on faculty involvement is nothing more than being a constant critic of both administration and faculty with no input as to solutions to any of his perceived problems. Based upon his activities, one can only conclude that his objective is to cause continued disruptions within the faculty and to completely discredit the University and the School of Accountancy and Information Systems. It is an insult to me and to my University to allow such an individual to continue to be a member of our faculty.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John A. Brown, M.S., C.P.A.
Instructor of Accounting

In his letter, Brown admits to Jackson that, by being a USM-GC faculty member, he (Brown) does not really know DePree. As evidenced by his letter, however, Brown is

still willing to request that Jackson terminate DePree based on what he (Brown) has apparently been told about DePree by others in the CoB's accounting group.

In an interesting twist to this story, sources tell USMNEWS.NET that former CoB Dean Harold Doty decided to terminate Brown's employment with USM at some point during his (Doty's) tenure as CoB Dean (i.e., 2003-07). However, DePree and former finance professor Walt Taylor interceded on Brown's behalf and drafted a letter to Doty explaining the need for Brown to remain on staff at CoB-GC. Brown's continued presence in the CoB, through and beyond 20-Aug-07, is a testament to the effectiveness (and helpfulness to Brown) of the DePree-Taylor letter.

As always, stay tuned for more.