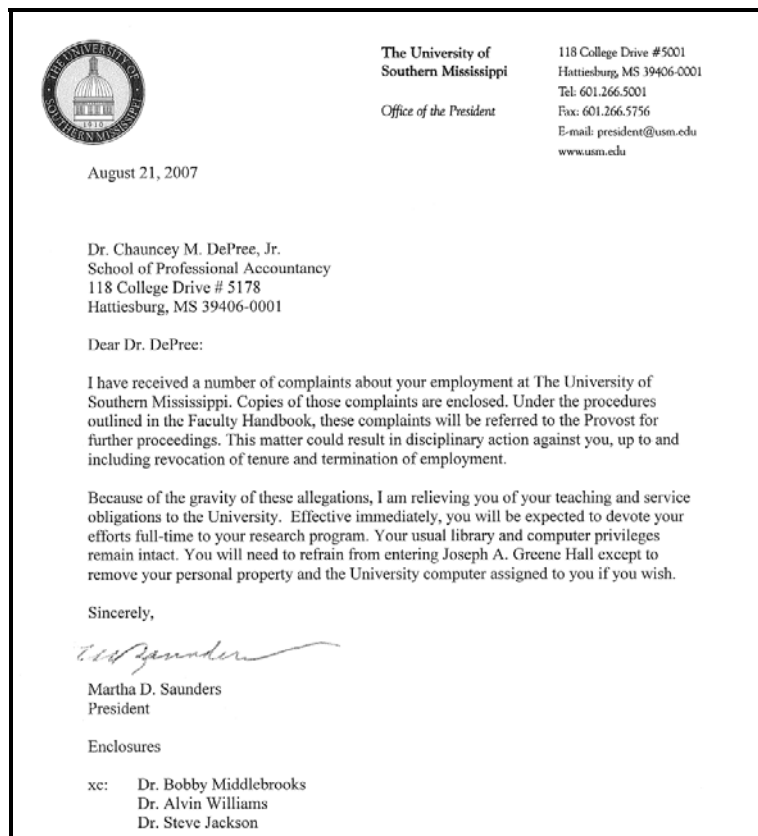


Breaking News

Culmination of the Latest Mobbing Episode

HATTIESBURG – A number of recent reports and columns at USMNEWS.NET have referred to an ongoing federal legal proceeding involving USM President Martha Saunders, CoB Interim Dean Alvin Williams, and former CoB Dean Harold Doty, now a professor of management in USM’s business school. That proceeding involves Saunders’ decision to relieve the editor of USMNEWS.NET, Marc DePree, of his teaching and service duties to USM during the fall semester 2007.

Reporters at USMNEWS.NET have now a copy of Saunders’ letter to DePree, which is dated 21 August 2007, one day prior to the beginning of fall semester 2007. That letter is inserted below:



As Saunders indicates in the letter above, she (Saunders) had received “a number of complaints” about DePree’s “employment at The University of Southern Mississippi. According to Saunders, the complaints now rest with the Provost for further review and proceedings.

Saunders goes on to state that because “of the gravity of these allegations, I am relieving you [DePree] of your teaching and service obligations to the University.” Saunders then closes by ordering DePree to refrain from entering Joseph Greene Hall, the home of USM’s business school.

Copied on the letter from Saunders are Bobby Middlebrooks, Interim Provost, Williams, and Steven Jackson, the Interim Director of the SAIS. Reporters at USMNEWS.NET have also obtained copies of the “complaints” referred to in the letter above from Saunders, and we will be processing them for additional news reports in the coming days.