

## *Dear usmnews.net*

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Thanks for an explanation of what happened in the editor's litigation [against Dr. Saunders, et al.]. I realize it is only one side of the story, but I have asked around, listened to some of the longtime faculty in the CoB, and have been able to confirm a lot of what the editor said.

I have another question that I hope you will answer. Why continue with usmnews.net? Many of us don't understand why a fourth tier school with delusions of being an academic institution is worth the trouble?

Name withheld by request

### Editor's Response

Dear Reader,

More than one person has asked some version of your question. I could give many answers, including a discussion of the value of freedom of speech and academic freedom. I can quote Thomas Paine who said "[i]f we do not hang together, we shall surely hang separately." Have no doubt that we are being hanged separately. We are watching and have watched tenured and tenure track faculty receive terminal letters, while administrators continue extravagantly to spend taxpayer and student dollars. However, a contributor explained "[Why We Write](#)" extremely well in an editorial first published in March 2009. The letter takes on additional meaning because the author was forced out of USM for the unforgivable crime of disagreeing with administrators.

And besides, whose school is USM anyway? Remember, I was promoted three times on the basis of academic merit at USM and am a tenured full professor. That is more than President Saunders, Provost Lyman, and Dean Nail can say. They were gifted with tenure and professor status by the bureaucrats at the IHL. And Saunders, Lyman, and Nail, too, are bureaucrats. Would they recognize an

honest day's academic work if it bit them in the arse? Students, faculty, taxpayers, and yes, even USM bureaucrats have a right to contribute to the advancement of USM.