

We continue a series recounting what a number of readers have characterized as misconduct and stupidity of past and current University of Southern Mississippi faculty and administrators. The facts underlying these conclusions have been fully documented. When one reader suggested this series, he opined “before someone comes to Southern Miss as a student or puts a career on the line as faculty member, “Ethics, Power and Academic Corruption” should be required reading.” The tenth installment follows. (See, the [first](#), [second](#), [third](#), [fourth](#), [fifth](#), [sixth](#), [seventh](#), [eighth](#), and [ninth](#) installments here.)

Alleged Standards Violations

Colleagues had documents demonstrating that USM-COB’s administrators and involved faculty copied, without attribution, “Guidelines” from the CMU/HCBA and the “Academic Integrity Policy” from the Whitman School, Syracuse University. Some colleagues were convinced the COB’s copying of HBCA’s “Guidelines” and Whitman School’s “Academic Integrity Policy” were instances of plagiarism. On the other hand, some colleagues were not quite sure and wanted administrators and involved faculty to present their views. All colleagues were in agreement, however, that if they themselves were afoul of a plagiarism accusation, after the accusation was made was not the time to sort out the parameters of plagiarism.

Unfortunately, the AACSB did not have an informal process to discuss issues like plagiarism with faculty. And, since USM’s administrators and involved faculty continued to refuse to discuss the copied documents, colleagues decided to follow formal AACSB procedures to encourage the AACSB, USM administrators, and involved faculty to discuss plagiarism.

The AACSB characterized the formal report to them of the copied documents as a “complaint” and advised colleagues that

... [Y]our complaint has been reviewed by the Chief Accreditation Officer, the Chair of the Maintenance of Accreditation Committee and the Chair of the Accounting Accreditation Committee. The Committees have determined that your complaint and supporting documentation will be provided to the members of the Peer Review Team conducting the next accreditation maintenance review at the USM. The Peer Review Team will be asked to pay particular attention to the alleged standards violations within the context of the evidence presented in your complaint and the response from the school.

Colleagues provided the AACSB with the evidence and documentation that was presented in the first part of this report and the Appendices. They also gave the AACSB a memorandum summarizing and referencing the USM Faculty Handbook procedures regarding investigating allegations of plagiarism. The letter to the AACSB concluded:

... It now appears that there is no process at the University of Southern Mississippi for investigating allegations of faculty plagiarism... Therefore,

we respectfully request that the AACSB not only “receive and review” the allegations of plagiarism and consider the potential scope of the failure to provide accurate documentation to the AACSB ... but also “receive and review” the more fundamental problem ... the School of Accountancy, College of Business, and the University of Southern Mississippi have no procedures to “insure integrity in the representation of information about programs and the institution.” (AACSB, 2010, 28)

Colleagues expected to hear directly from the AACSB. After a couple of months without another word from the AACSB, an attorney acquired secret documents that, among other things, reported that the AACSB Manager, Accreditation Services, emailed Dean Doty and advised him that:

... We recommend that you provide the peer review team with a written response to the allegations prior to the visit. ...