

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](#), [ninth](#), [tenth](#) and [eleventh](#) installments here.)

The Academic Integrity Policy

In another secret communication with the AACSB, Dean Doty characterized copying Syracuse’s Academic Integrity Policy as “benchmarking.” He wrote Dean Ted Cummings, University of Houston, Clear Water, who was Chairman of the AACSB Peer Visitation Team:

As with other matters, we have permission to use the documents. Maybe you should ask [colleague from Syracuse] if he is okay with USM benchmarking Whitman School on Academic Integrity – there [sic] policy is very good and well tested. We started with their document and edited it for our purposes. We did not reinvent the wheel!

Colleagues were unanimous that benchmarking has about as much to do with copying of someone else’s writing without attribution as the EEOC has to do with investigating plagiarism. Absurd in both instances. (See a definition of benchmarking.)

Dean Doty and Marketing Professor Laurie Babin seemed to use Syracuse’s Academic Integrity Policy as boilerplate. For example, USM’s “College of Business” was substituted for the Whitman School’s name, while the wording and substance of the work were retained. As noted above, by comparison, the Whitman School chose to give credit for the ideas and work of the creative sources of its Academic Integrity Policy. This indicated that Syracuse University did not consider the Academic Integrity Policy was boilerplate. Rather, Syracuse’s extensive list of sources indicated that proper citation was appropriate...