

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 eighth installment follows. (See, the [first](#), [second](#), [third](#), [fourth](#), [fifth](#), [sixth](#) and [seventh](#) installments here.)

## **The AACSB: Evidence and Alternative Perspectives**

The test proposition in the form of a question is, Does AACSB comply with, and persuades its members to comply with, its standards and advice? How does AACSB actually conduct its accreditation audit when challenged with evidence of misconduct? The hypothesis and question are relevant today in that the AACSB has been and is still fully informed of the continuing plagiarism at COB USM during reaccreditation audits. The test hypothesis, therefore, represents a continuous process. Test opportunities of AACSB activities existed before this study and will be available after this study. Every AACSB accreditation act is, in effect, an experiment subject to scientific assessment and is an important consideration to all who are substantially influenced by AACSB accreditation. After all, institutions like the AACSB and USM are powerful. They substantially influence daily activities of faculty, students, and the citizens of our country. Therefore, their administrators should be questioned and rigorously studied. This is not, however, the position of the AACSB.

Chairman of the AACSB Visitation Committee, Ted Cummings, Dean at the University of Houston, Clear Water, testified under oath in a deposition that the AACSB is not a proper subject for study. He and other AACSB officials, including C. Edward Arrington from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, along with USM administrators and involved faculty *acted* on the belief that AACSB is not a proper subject of study by participating in and punishing the author for this research. Then-President Martha Saunders spent over \$2.5 million of state money in an attempt to fire the author. Then-Interim Dean Alvin Williams and Accounting Professors Charles Jordan (a faculty member who copied documents verbatim from another school), Rod Posey, Mary Anderson, Steve Jackson, and Gwen Pate, along with Instructor Patty Polk Munn, participated in the failed attempt to fire Researcher DePree. This kind of behavior is nothing new, and, given the level of integrity of participants in *a test of social reality*, it might be expected. As noted in DePree, *A General Theory to Test Social Reality*, “[i]ndividual researchers in any science are vulnerable . . . in the face of powerful organizations, institutions, and their administrators.”...