

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 twentieth installment follows. (See, the [first](#), [second](#), [third](#), [fourth](#), [fifth](#), [sixth](#), [seventh](#), [eighth](#), [ninth](#), [tenth](#), [eleventh](#), [twelfth](#), [thirteenth](#), [fourteenth](#), [fifteenth](#), [sixteenth](#), [seventeenth](#), [eighteenth](#), [nineteenth](#) and [twentieth](#) installments here.)

### **Documentation: What University Does in Practice**

Then-College of Business Interim Dean, Alvin Williams—now a faculty member at The University of South Alabama, in a petition to University President Martha Saunders, wrote, “Professor DePree worked exceptionally hard to derail our attempts at AACSB accreditation. He contacted the AACSB office and made allegations about our programs and processes that were not based on facts. This type of behavior is injurious to the College and the University...[I]t is my recommendation that the University proceed immediately to remove Professor DePree from his teaching, research, and service responsibilities...”<sup>3</sup>

Consider Dean Alvin Williams’ claim that the “allegations...were not based on facts.” Documentation and evidence were provided first to the involved faculty and administrators, then to AACSB in accordance with the rules and procedures, and are summarized next: (Documents and evidence are provided in Appendix I. They are identified by their numbers.)

1. An email from then-Chairman George Carter of College of Business Accreditation Committee asking faculty to review, among other documents to be submitted to the AACSB, the College’s “Guidelines for Participating and Supporting Faculty.”
2. Compare 1. with 2. “Guidelines for Participating and Supporting Faculty” from the Harmon College of Business Administration, Central Missouri State University. 1. is copied from 2. See confirmation in 3. The internet address for the Harmon College of Business Administration’s document was also provided so that direct confirmation could be made.
3. Confirmation of the source of the Carter’s “Guidelines for Participating and Supporting Faculty” comes via the MICROSOFT Word Properties function. It also shows the source as the Harmon College of Business Administration’s “Guidelines for Participating and Supporting Faculty.” Note that no attribution was given by USM’s College of

Business for use of the Harmon College of Business Administration's  
"Guidelines for Participating and Supporting Faculty."

Next consider additional facts offered to AACSB in a follow-up communication in support of the claim that there was no process for investigating allegations of faculty plagiarism at USM:

4. Email from USM Ombudsman John Harsh, stating that "He [Vice President for Research Cecil Burge] agrees [with Ombudsman Harsh] that we [USM] don't have such a person [to investigate plagiarism] on this campus [USM]."
5. Emails to University Ombudsman Harsh citing the Faculty Handbook: "...plagiarism or other misconduct in research or in any other scholarly or creative activity is strictly prohibited...Every student and University employee is responsible not only to abide by the highest standards of integrity and professional ethics themselves but also to report violations...Alleged breaches...are investigated promptly and fully..." And that "[p]arties having reasonable cause to believe that a University employee or student has committed an act of scholarly misconduct must first consult informally with the University Research Ombudsman." The emails between University Ombudsman Harsh and the Researcher DePree supports representations that the Ombudsman met informally with the Researcher and that he, the Ombudsman, recommended, after meeting with the Vice President for Research, that Researcher DePree see the EEOC officer.
6. Emails between the EEOC Officer Rebecca Woodrick and Researcher DePree advised him that her duties did not include investigations of alleged plagiarism.
7. After several faculty and Researcher DePree asked administrators and involved faculty to discuss the documents that were copied "without citation," Professor Jordan carried out the instruction of the Dean Doty to obtain permission from the Harmon College of Business Administration to copy their "Guidelines for Participating and Supporting Faculty" "without proper citation." This was unknown to the faculty and Researcher DePree at the time. The document was obtained only after an attorney interceded with a freedom of information request.

Also consider the following documents Researcher DePree offered University administrators and AACSB of another suspected plagiarism found by other researchers:

8. A copy of USM College of Business Academic Integrity Policy.

9. A copy of the Academic Integrity Policy from the School of Management, Syracuse University. For the convenience of USM administrators and AACSB, the portions of the USM College of Business Academic Integrity Policy that were copied directly from the Syracuse School of Management's Academic Integrity Policy without attribution was identified in red. Internet addresses for both Academic Integrity Policies were provided to accommodate direct independent verification.

The documents were forwarded to the University Provost and University President. They did not respond.

USM College of Business and School of Accountancy did not include any citations for its copied version of Syracuse School of Management's Academic Integrity Policy. It's crucial to notice that the following citations at the end of Syracuse's Academic Integrity policy were not copied by USM:

*"Portions of this policy are adapted from the following sources, with permission: [Council of Writing Program Administrators](#). "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: WPA Statement on Best Policies." Council of Writing Program Administrators, January 2003. Howard, Rebecca Moore. "A Plagiarism Pentimento." *Journal of Teaching Writing* (Summer 1993). 233-245. Portions of this policy are based on the academic integrity policies of Boston College, Cornell University, Duke University, Georgetown University, the University of Maryland, and former policies of Syracuse University's School of Architecture, College of Arts and Sciences, L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science, School of Education, College of Human Services and Health Professions, School of Information Studies, Whitman School of Management, and College of Visual and Performing Arts.)" <sup>i</sup> [http://supolicies.syr.edu/ethics/acad\\_integrity.htm](http://supolicies.syr.edu/ethics/acad_integrity.htm)*

Let me repeat, the USM College of Business and School of Accountancy did not include any citations in its copied version of Syracuse School of Management's Academic Integrity Policy. The citations were the only item the USM did not copy from the Syracuse's Academic Integrity Policy.

In an email to the AACSB and obtained through a freedom of information request, Dean Harold Doty explained that he was merely "benchmarking" the Syracuse School of Management's Academic Integrity Policy and was "not reinventing the wheel."...

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<sup>3</sup> On the first day of, and one hour before, class, Fall 2007, then-Interim Dean Alvin Williams hand delivered a letter to Researcher DePree from then-University President Martha Saunders which banned the researcher from the business college building (but not other areas of the campus), suspended his teaching privileges, excluded him from all service and university governance, and commenced an investigation of him with the stated purpose of terminating his employment. As of September 2012, he is paid his full salary, but is still suspended from teaching and service, and has no research requirements other full professors have. Furthermore, University administrators are paying faculty to teach his classes and do his service and research.