

FEELING SAFE AT USM

Readers have questioned whether violent and threatening conduct really occurs at the College of Business. Many outsiders find it difficult to believe that such a hateful atmosphere could be created or tolerated. Therefore, usmnews.net's reporters are reviewing sworn testimony relating to acts of hostility and threatening behavior in the CoB. In each case, the conduct was ignored, and by being ignored, was promoted at USM. usmnews.net continues the reports with an excerpt from an affidavit filed in Federal Court:

“an incident of no consequence”

- 1) I was a Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi at the College of Business, in the Economic, Finance and International Business Department, prior to January 1, 2008, the effective date of my resignation.
- 2) On September 28, 2007, less than twenty four hours after I offered sworn testimony before Judge Keith Starrett pertaining to a motion for temporary restraining order filed by Dr. Chauncey M. DePree, Jr., I was accosted and threatened by D. Harold Doty, who is a Defendant in the action filed by Dr. DePree.
- 3) I was sufficiently frightened that more than a half hour after the incident, I was still shaking. I promptly contacted the University Police Department and provided a statement. I advised Dr. Saunders and Interim Dean Williams, by email of the threat.
- 4) I also went to Interim Dean Williams' office and reported the incident. Dr. Williams was completely disinterested in my situation -- didn't even want to hear much about it or discuss it. Based on Dr. Williams' attitude and demeanor, had I not gone to his office, I believe he would not have discussed the incident with me.

- 5) Dr. Saunders wrote an email to me indicating that she had instructed Dr. Williams to conduct an investigation. But for Dr. Saunders' email, and based on Dr. Williams attitude when I visited his office to discuss the incident, I do not believe Dr. Williams would have taken any action.
- 6) Dr. Williams obtained a statement from Dr. Doty which substantially confirmed what I had reported. However, Dr. Doty's statement indicates that his demeanor was not threatening. I was subsequently advised by Dr. Williams that it was "an incident of no consequence."

And Dr. Saunders agreed with Dr. Williams' decision. "... as I recall there was no one else present." The professor in question obviously thought it was a matter of consequence. He resigned his tenured full professorship. And what did Dr. Saunders think about that? We don't know. However, one of her lawyers said the resignation and departure was "for the best."