

Caution: USM's Notions of Integrity and Honesty Could be Dangerous to Your Career

Does the proposed "[Scholarly Misconduct](#)" policy exempt faculty and administrators who copy "without proper citation" ideas or words that they don't consider to be "research"?

For example, if VP Bill Powell "copies without proper citation" other schools' accreditation documents and submits them on behalf of USM as USM's words and ideas, is that behavior exempt from the "Scholarly Misconduct" policy? According to USM administrators, the new policy only applies to "research," and administrative documents are not covered by the policy.

What about other representations of academic integrity and honesty in the Faculty Handbook? Would copying accreditation documents "without proper citation" be prohibited in any part of the Faculty Handbook? The words used in the Faculty Handbook not only say they are, but obligate faculty to report the misconduct. However, as a practical matter, are these high sounding words applied?

USM administrators and faculty have in fact "copied without proper citation" other schools' accreditation documents and submitted them to accreditors as their own work. If you report acts of administrative plagiarism, you may be punished up to and including being fired. Will that put your academic career at risk? (See, "[Ethics, Power, and Academic Corruption](#)" available at Amazon.)

My recommendation is that you observe administrative behavior rather than rely on high sounding words. (See, "Ethics, Power, and Academic Corruption.") USM has a tradition of punishing, without due process, those who dare cast doubt on USM's claims of integrity regardless of evidence brought to bear proving breaches of academic integrity and honesty. In my experience, what USM means by integrity and honesty is exemplified in "Ethics, Power, and Academic Corruption" and it has little connection to common ethics notions of integrity or honesty.

And if you doubt what I'm saying, I can prove it. If USM administrators have integrity, correct the plagiarism exemplified in "Ethics, Power, and Academic Corruption." It would be easy to do, but after nearly a decade it hasn't been done.