

Is This What You Call Professional?

Consider the following sworn testimony of Martha Saunders. This testimony reflects what happens when former USM General Counsel Lee Gore provides legal advice to former USM President Martha Saunders. Can you expect the same repulsive behavior from Lee Gore and Martha Saunders at UWF? If history is any measure, the answer is yes. Take a look at the following:

Questions directed to [USM] President Martha Saunders at her deposition on April 12 and 13, 2010--Q is question; A is President Saunders' answer.

Q. Lets go back to your affidavit for a minute? A. (Saunders looks at document.)

Q. You say in paragraph five: As president of the university I take very seriously allegations of threatening and disruptive behavior; is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. And is that true?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you received claims of disruptive intimidating and frightening behavior by other faculty in the college of business?

A. Not that I recall.

Q. Do you recall being present when Dr. Sean Salter testified that Dr. Niroomand berated him for an hour without allowing him to sit down, became red faced, agitated, and said he ought to -- and I quote -- kick your ass?

A. I don't recall that.

Q. Do you have any reason to believe that's false?

A. Did you say that he testified?

Q. Yes.

A. Then I would assume it's true.

Q. Did you take any action concerning Dr. Niroomand?

A. No.

Q. You didn't take that claim seriously?

A. It wasn't brought to me.

Q. You were sitting in the courtroom Dr. Saunders?

A. But wasn't brought to me.

Q. So it has to be put in writing and delivered to you?

A. We have several layers of discipline on the campus. My assumption is that the appropriate action would have been taken at another level or it would have gotten to me.

Q. Do you recall Dr. Mixon testifying and Dr. Salter testifying that Dr. Cheryl Becker and I quote -- went ballistic screaming at a secretary 'get away from me with that petty shit', yelling and screaming at a secretary?

A. I don't recall.

Q. But if it was testified to in open court

A. I would have heard it.

Q. And do you consider that serious?

A. Screaming? Yes.

Q. Screaming and swearing at a secretary?

A. Yes.

Q. Loud enough until faculty is coming down the hallway?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you take any action?

A. No.

Q. Have you conducted any investigation of that?

A. No.

Q. Do you recall Dr. Mixon testifying during a meeting with Dr. Niroomand, Dr. Niroomand had to verbally and physically restrained by Drs. Carter and Doty?

A. No.

Q. Were you present when Dr. Mixon testified at the temporary restraining order hearing?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you take any action concerning that?

A. No.

Q. Did you consider those allegations serious?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recall Dr. Mixon reporting that Dr. Doty had threatened him the day after he testified at the hearing on the TRO [Temporary restraining order]?

A. Yes.

Q. What action was taken to that?

A. I asked the dean to investigate, Dean Williams [Doty's friend and fellow administrator] to investigate.

Q. Why wasn't Dr. Doty removed from Joseph Greene Hall?

A. I don't recall the outcome of the investigation. I'd have to go back and review.

Q. Was Dr. Doty, to the best of your knowledge, ever removed from Joseph Greene Hall?

A. No.

Q. Did you take any action other than asking Dr. Williams to investigate?

A. No.

Mr. Gore and Ms Saunders have a history of selectively enforcing rules and laws that suit their preferences. Will they do the same to you?