

Editorial

Shocked?!

USM administrators not following the Faculty Handbook? Mr. Lucas was the administrator, this time? I'm shocked! Shocked!

Let's put this in perspective. If the USM administrators/IHL members had to decide between continuing the football team, expensive losers that they are, or the faculty senate...adios, sayonara, bye-bye faculty senate.

Would it be much of a loss? To lose the Faculty Senate, that is? But, that's a question for another day.

Here's another newsflash. Administrators use the Faculty Handbook when they want to, to suit their purposes. And ignore it when it suits their purposes. Unless Mr. Lucas is feeble-minded, he knew how the faculty would react to an Emeritus award to Mr. Thames. He correctly measured what the after-the-fact faculty response would be. But, it's over and done. *A fait accompli.*

Should anyone really be shocked? Lucas and Thames are old buddies. That's obvious to anyone who's been at USM for a while. For these, and many other reasons, that means, dear faculty, you are not to be consulted. You are irrelevant. And "shared governance" is simply a scheme to deceive outsiders who care to ask. Administrators will fall over each other to brag, "We have a real school here at Southern Miss, just like the good schools up north that actually educate students—World Class, that's us."

Why should anyone be surprised by Lucas' behavior? It's consistent with his entire career. Consider a [recent report](#).

"During the late 1950's, Aubrey K. Lucas was the Director of Admissions at Mississippi Southern College, later named the University of Southern Mississippi, when Mr. Clyde Kennard applied for admission. Among other accomplishments, Mr. Kennard was "a former sergeant and paratrooper in the U.S. Army." Mr. Kennard's clearly met all conditions for acceptance, except for one insignificant thing: he was black.

Mr. Kennard wasn't just rejected, he was punished for his efforts to become the first black to be admitted to MSC-USM. He was falsely accused of a crime, prosecuted, and jailed.

Mr. Lucas blamed "the governor, J. P. Coleman, who decided against admitting Mr. Kennard." Although Mr. Lucas said, in 2006 – long after Mr. Kennard's death -- "it was a mistake," he did not stick his neck out to prevent the injustice. Let there be no mistake that the behavior of Mississippi officials was disgusting and despicable. Their behavior was so disgusting that no one, much less one who professes to be a devout Christian, could have perceived what was done to Mr. Kennard was anything other than an appalling injustice.

Mr. Lucas did then what he continued to do over many years. He sat back and watched injustice perpetrated against others by USM officials including Presidents Thames and Saunders.”

But be clear, Mr. Lucas may sit and watch injustice roll on at USM, but he rewards his friends.

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