

We know from experience--which has been reported on usmnews.com since its inception--that university administrators ignore the rules when it suits them, and enforce them for ulterior motives. See, [It's a Violation](#), today's opinion piece from a contributor and a report from our [archives](#). The first paragraph of an article in this morning's [Hattiesburg American](#) reads: "Mississippi State University employees planted 13 magnolia trees at the Rankin County home of Tom Meredith, commissioner of higher education, and the state is holding the interim president of MSU accountable." Dr. Meredith has proclaimed himself "exonerated". However, as I read the reports in the newspaper, here's what crossed my mind – Dr. Meredith may have offered to pay for the landscaping, but didn't. He quietly accepted the benefits, even though he obviously knew he should have paid. Dr. Meredith took no action to report the improper behavior. He took no action to discipline Dr. Watson. In fact, he elevated Dr. Watson to the position of interim president. Is there something wrong with this picture? Let me suggest an answer. One can only wonder who Dr. Watson and/or Dr. Meredith offended who had enough clout to pursue this matter. Marc DePree, Editor