

“There are no rules.”

Director Skip Hughes (Accounting) and I met to discuss procedures he and other USM administrators were trumping up to fire me under the guise of post tenure review. He insisted on recording the conversation. I offer it below for your review. You’ll see—hear, I mean, because it’s an audio—why he/they failed. (Their failure cost the students at USM and Mississippi taxpayers over \$2,500,000.) The short version why he/they failed: he/they didn’t make sense. Their preconceived conclusion, *fire DePree*, made him/them downright silly—I use that word in a technical sense.

Though Skip’s and my conversation can get complicated, anyone familiar with a faculty handbook will follow what’s discussed.

Skip repeated several times in our discussion that “There are no rules...There are no rules...There are no rules.” He made it quite clear that he made up evaluations to fit his personal and private preferences and purposes.

If I were you, I would be very cautious when working with him. He will exercise authority on the basis of his whims. His arbitrary and capricious behavior is precisely why faculty handbooks have been and continue to be a staple of higher education, to provide public and objective guidance.