

## USM a “Politically Biased College” or Worse?

[The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) recently quoted President Obama on the issue of colleges and free speech.

During the question-and-answer session, a student asked the president about an unnamed Republican presidential contender’s proposal to defund “politically biased colleges.”

In his answer, Mr. Obama touched on issues of sensitivity and free speech on college campuses.

*The purpose of college is not, just as I said before, to transmit skills. It’s also to widen your horizons, to make you a better citizen, to help you to evaluate information, to help you make your way through the world, to help you be more creative. The way to do that is to create a space where a lot of ideas are presented and collide, and people are having arguments, and people are testing each other’s theories. And, over time, people learn from each other because they’re getting out of their own narrow point of view and having a broader point of view...*

My comment offered in the CHE: I often portray the University of Southern Mississippi as a school that punishes speech. USM administrator and faculty behavior is quite the opposite of what President Obama “thinks about sensitivity and free speech on campus.”

Consider the sworn deposition of then-Assistant (now Associate) [Professor Mary Morgan Anderson](#).

“A[nswer from Anderson]. Marc [DePree] had all these memos on his door, you know, and I found them offensive, students would ask about them. And one night I just tore them all down.

[Attorney] Q[uestion]. You tore them off?

A. The outside of his door, yes, I did.”

Then-President Martha Saunders (current provost at University of West Florida) and then-Dean Alvin Williams [supported Anderson’s behavior](#) and went so far as to try to fire me for my speech.

Also see [usmnews.net](#) for the deposition of Anderson, Saunders, Williams, and other intolerant University of Southern Mississippi academics.

USM administrators or faculty have done nothing to correct their appalling behavior.