

University of Southern Mississippi – A Tribal Moral Community

PART 10

Dr. K.E. "Skip" Hughes II, Director School of Accountancy

In this series, we review the peculiar behavior of faculty and administrators at USM - - peculiar because their behavior is inconsistent with their extensive education and training. We shall show how research-trained colleagues totally ignored their long years of education in favor of irrational behavior. (See, previous Parts for background information in this series.)

A framework to understand our colleagues' irrational behavior is "Tribal Morality" which was recently discussed in several widely published articles. For readers' convenience, we'll apply "Tribal Morality" from the perspective contained in a *Chronicle of Higher Education* report entitled, "De-Tribalizing Academe" by Peter Wood.

"De-Tribalizing" faculty behavior continues with Skip Hughes. We have a record of his behavior because he insisted on recording our conversations.

Part 10: Skip Hughes Joins A Tribal Mobbing And Does Whatever It Takes To Railroad Dr. DePree Regardless of Facts, Rules, Academic Freedom, Constitutional Rights.

President Martha Saunders hired Skip Hughes to be Director of USM's School of Accountancy. She spent millions to try to terminate Professor DePree's tenure and employment at USM and Director Hughes eagerly joined in the mobbing to try to make it so.

How did he participate?

He made up rules and applied his special "feelings" to discredit DePree so that there would be a "colorable reason" to fire him.

For example, Hughes said, "I'm not going to commit."

What is it that School of Accountancy Director Skip Hughes was "not going to commit" to?

Answer: The College of Business and USM Faculty Handbooks. His treatment of DePree was not bound by anything but his corrupt goal of trying to fire DePree.

Will he apply the College of Business and USM Faculty Handbooks in evaluations of the other faculty at the School of Accountancy? Of course. If he didn't his own employment could be terminated. But since he had approval to treat DePree outside the rules, he could join the mobbing of DePree with impunity, which he eagerly did like any lackey following instructions of a totalitarian.

Here's an example of how Hughes participated in the corruption: DePree's A-level publications were, according to Director Hughes' and his "feelings," substandard. No one else's A-level publications were designated Hughes-substandard. So, A-level journal as classified in CoB's Journal Ranking, should support a research evaluation score between 4 and 5 (out of a possible 5) as specified in the CoB Handbook. But DePree's A-level publications according to Hughes' "feelings" are scored between 0 and 1 (out of a possible 5).

Hughes' fabrication of rules based on his "feelings" were his despicable contribution to efforts to fire DePree. The mobbing Hughes joined was to punish DePree for his speech—critiques of waste of taxpayer and student money and faculty and administrator corruption and misconduct. Hughes chose to advance the corrupt behavior of Doty, Williams, Jordan, and Saunders allowing them to hide their own misconduct in false accusations against DePree.

What would Skip Hughes, PhD, have done if he were applying the principles of research, *i.e.*, applying a careful description and consideration of facts and evidence to Professor DePree research? At a minimum he would have professed and demonstrated through behavior an unequivocal concern for the truth of his representations. So, why didn't he?

A Community of Tribal Morality

Let's assume that Dr. Hughes understands that the principles of reason, evidence, and truth advance knowledge in areas of his discipline and outside his discipline of accounting. It follows that there may be another process underway that helps us understand his irrational behavior. Why did Hughes misrepresent DePree's research? Why did he join in the lies and efforts to fire DePree?

Consider Skip Hughes' behavior from the perspective of Tribal Morality.

Professor Marc DePree, DBA, had collected independent evidence of corruption by USM administrators and some USM faculty. The response from President Saunders was not to investigate the independent evidence of corruption by USM administrators and some USM faculty, but was to hire an administrator, Hughes, to trump up inaccurate evaluations and misrepresent research standards to help her to fire Professor DePree. With the choice of applying research principles or the principle of inviolable sacredness of USM, Hughes chose to apply the principle that USM is inviolably sacred and beyond question and should be supported regardless of the lies and misconduct required to join the mobbing. Hughes was not chosen by President Saunders to apply principles of reason and evidence he was trained as a researcher. She accurately measured Hughes as good tribal member.

See, University of Southern Mississippi Tribal Moral Community Part 11 – Dr. Hughes the Hypocrite.