

“I’m not going to commit.”

Question: What is it that School of Accountancy Director Skip Hughes is “not going to commit” to?

Answer: The College of Business and USM Faculty Handbooks.

I was surprised to learn that if a colleague earns a publication in an A-level journal as classified in CoB’s Journal Ranking, Director Hughes will not support a score between 4 and 5 (out of a possible 5) for research as specified in the CoB Handbook. How does a colleague gain his support, then, if Skip’s “feelings” are not consistent with the rules? What will Skip commit to?

He will commit to supporting a Naval Service colleague, even if he is a self-admitted felon, convicted by his own words of corrupting the judicial system. “Richard F. Scruggs has admitted to conspiring to bribe Circuit Court Judge Henry L. Lackey.”

(http://www.legalnewsline.com/content/img/f213805/scruggs_memo.pdf, see, page 4.)

Skip offered mighty fine words in support of a felon. Let’s see if we can figure out why he’d support a felon and not a colleague who only asked him to follow the rules. Well, he and I are both full professors. However, Skip got promotion to full at USM through the administrative hiring process and not academic promotion. That means he gets his marching orders from his fellow administrators.

Marching orders...hmmm, maybe that has something to do with Skip’s commitment. Skip’s support of Scruggs harkens back to their Naval Service. Maybe that’s the standard that motivates Skip’s “feelings.” Scruggs and Hughes were Navy Officers -- but I was Naval Service, too: Marine Corps Infantry Officer. Hmmm. Some of my fellow Marines might say there’s a little jealousy, here. Let’s take a look. Scruggs was a Navy pilot and Hughes was a Naval Flight Officer, not a pilot. Some might say they were in the Navy because they couldn’t meet the requirements of the Marine Corps. Nothing to be ashamed of, but perhaps a cause for jealousy. So, there’s a possible explanation.

Let’s dig a little deeper. Never can tell what we’ll turn up. What were his interests in supporting a felon but not a law-abiding colleague who only asked him to follow the College and University Faculty Handbooks? Is there a reward for applying his only clearly stated standard of commitment: “my [Skip’s] feelings”?

Let’s go on a fact hunt! Maybe usmnews.net’s readers can help. Let us know your thoughts and information about when Skip “commits” his “feelings” in support of a colleague.

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