

It's Your Academic Integrity Policy, Now

Dear Skip,

We tried years ago to have a dialogue with SoA/CoB/USM administrators, now chronicled in "[Without Proper Citation](#)." It was and continues to be an education/learning opportunity. We consider that your participation in ongoing actions to prohibit my speech chronicled in "Without Proper Citation" is also an education/learning opportunity regardless of your efforts to illicitly take my tenure and position at SoA/CoB/USM. Keep in mind "Without Proper Citation" is less about plagiarism than it is intolerance of speech with which you and other administrators at SoA/CoB/USM disagree. You have taken up the illicit cause and are willing to misuse the power of the state, your leadership/administrative position, to silence speech that is simply a recounting of facts. All the rest of your behavior is posturing to accomplish a shameful goal.

With that as a context, in a follow-up email to you, Director Hughes, I said, "Given our [January 13, 2010] conversation [your explicit interest in proper citations], I think we can have the dialogue about citations that the administration has refused to participate in for years. (You could observe and confirm for yourself the facts and objective evidence outlined and provided in "Without Proper Citation" rather than simply accepting the claims of people whom you have joined to have me fired. The topic of proper citations is more complicated than most people understand. However, because of facts I was provided by my colleagues, I understood the obligation to learn about plagiarism and standard citation practices. SoA/CoB/USM could have, and still can, easily overcome citation problems with its documents. For example, they, and now you, could include the citations CoB/USM administrators fail/failed to provide for the materials they copied. The significant list of citations Syracuse University posted at the end of its Academic Integrity Policy could be included at the end of CoB's

Academic Integrity Policy. Here is what CoB didn't copy from Syracuse's Academic Integrity Policy:

Portions of this policy are adapted from the following sources, with permission: Council of Writing Program Administrators. "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: WPA Statement on Best Policies." Council of Writing Program Administrators, January 2003. <<http://www.wpacouncil.org/positions/index.html>>.

Howard, Rebecca Moore. "A Plagiarism Pentimento." Journal of Teaching Writing (Summer 1993). 233-245. Portions of this policy are based on the academic integrity policies of Boston College, Cornell University, Duke University, Georgetown University, the University of Maryland, and former policies of Syracuse University's School of Architecture, College of Arts and Sciences, L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science, School of Education, College of Human Services and Health Professions, School of Information Studies, Whitman School of Management, and College of Visual and Performing Arts. (Syracuse University, Academic Integrity Office, December 19, 2007." <http://provost.syr.edu/provost/units/academicprograms/academicintegrity/>)

I would also suggest that when the citations are included, SoA/CoB/USM administrators introduce The Academic Integrity Policy with a statement of appreciation for the contribution of Syracuse University's Academic Integrity Policy.

Now, you, as well as other USM administrators, have been (for some of you, again) notified of the citation problem with the CoB's Academic Integrity Policy. You, and other CoB/USM administrators, claim professionalism and integrity. That is easy to say. Ethics and professionalism seem to require that you read our

paper "Without Proper Citation" and address the problems. Certainly, at the 2008 National AAA Meeting many of my colleagues found the paper interesting and challenging. Of significance is that they found it troubling that Syracuse included an extensive citation list while CoB did not. It will take courage to act ethically, but no more courage than we both practiced in the Navy and Marine Corps."

Marc DePree, Editor
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