

[Click here](#) for more in this series.

PART 15

University of Southern Mississippi President **Martha Saunders** suspended Research Professor **Marc DePree** on the basis of false claims in letters from Interim Dean **Alvin Williams** and involved faculty (see, previous **parts** of this series). Of course, President **Saunders** chose not to act on the fact that the miscreants had illegitimate motives. Instead, in spite of the evidence provided to her, and shown in previous [PARTS](#) of this series above, she chose to join the miscreants. **Saunders, Williams** and involved faculty demonstrated intolerance of different ideas as well as misconduct. (**Alvin Williams** became Dean after both Dean **Harold Doty** and Associate Dean **Farang Niroomand** “stepped down” at the same time in mid-semester. Rumors abounded but no confirmation of the reasons for the unusual mid-semester resignations of both the Dean and Associate Dean were forthcoming. However, Patty Munn, an instructor in the School of Accountancy, testified under oath that:

A. He [Doty] resigned.

Q. Why?

A. What I heard was that there was an incident with another professor.

Q. Niroomand?

A. Yes. And he -- and that there was some kind of sexual harassment deal with Niroomand and that Dr. Doty did not follow-up on it or discipline Niroomand as he should have.

Professor **DePree** then filed a “complaint” with the AACSB based on its Diversity Standard.

AACSB’s Response To Diversity “Complaint” And The Resulting Dialog

AACSB provided the following response to the request to consider the University of Southern Mississippi’s failure to follow its or AACSB’s diversity principles:

“Dear Professor,

Your materials have been reviewed. AACSB previously addressed your [plagiarism] complaint, and there is no basis for any further review or actions. AACSB is not a party to any individual disputes that occur between an institution and individual faculty members or students since such are beyond the scope of our accreditation standards.

Jerry E. Trapnell

Executive Vice President & Chief Accreditation Officer
AACSB International

Researcher Professor **DePree's** response was:

“Dear Mr. **Trapnell**,

Thank you for your prompt response and I do respect your decision. However, let me make clear that I was not asking the AACSB to become a party to an individual dispute or reconsider its determinations whether copying “without proper citation” of submissions to AACSB is a violation of AACSB standards. My complaint relates to issues pertaining to AACSB's standard of diversity and whether faculty can file complaints in accordance with AACSB without fear of retaliation or being fired. This is not one person's view. If signatures of additional faculty will encourage you to consider this a complaint about diversity, even given the threat of termination for complaining, I believe I can to provide additional signatures.

Your attention to my additional information is appreciated.

Dr. **DePree**”

Nothing more was heard from **Jerry Trapnell** or the AACSB until a Q&A with **Trapnell** at the 2010 Annual American Accounting Association. **DePree** asked him whether he agreed with Dean **Ted Cummings'** sworn testimony that the AACSB is not a proper subject of study. Understand that **Cummings** asserted that the AACSB should not be studied as Research Professor **DePree** did. He provided rationale for **Saunders** and **Williams** to punish Professor **DePree**. (**Trapnell** and **Cummings** will be the subject of a future report.)