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PART 16

Conclusion

Race and Gender Implications

University of Southern Mississippi's President, **Martha Saunders**, is a white female; Interim Dean **Alvin Williams** is African American male; and Executive Vice President AACSB **Jerry Trapnell** is a white male; involved faculty included white and black males and females from all disciplines in the College of Business. Diversity of race, gender, and background, therefore, does not imply tolerance of different ideas. In fact, as demonstrated in this paper, when **Saunders, Williams, Trapnell, Jordan, et al.** had "skin in the game", they did not tolerate diversity of ideas. Furthermore, University of Southern Mississippi and AACSB proclamations of diversity of ideas are diametrically opposed to their practice. Although omerta, deception, and punishment for speech may be commonplace among gangsters and criminals, should we expect better from the University of Southern Mississippi and the AACSB?

Hypotheses Refuted

As hypothesized in this case research, ***If AACSB applies its diversity standard, then its accredited members "must show that within this (educational) context its business programs include diverse viewpoints among participants...Accredited programs must demonstrate commitment and actions in support of diversity in educational experience."*** Also hypothesized in this research, ***If the University of Southern Mississippi puts into practice its diversity standard, then its administrators and faculty must "cherish the free exchange of ideas, diversity of thought, joint decision making,***

and individuals' assumption of responsibility" ... and ... "protect freedom of inquiry and speech. Faculty and students must be able to study, learn, speak, teach, research, and publish, without fear of intimidation or reprisal, free from political interference, in an environment of tolerance for and engagement with divergent opinions."

The University of Southern Mississippi and its College of Business and School of Accountancy were and are accredited members of the AACSB and they not only did not demonstrate a tolerance for diverse ideas, it punished different ideas. Research Professor **Marc DePree** was suspended from teaching and service and threatened with termination of tenure and employment. Although he is and remains a tenured full professor, paid his full salary and benefits, he is not permitted to teach or participate in research seminars or governance of the College or University, among other activities allowed other full professors. Furthermore, the AACSB seemed wholly unconcerned that The University of Southern Mississippi failed to "demonstrate commitment and actions in support of diversity". *Therefore, neither USM nor AACSB abide by their diversity principles and standards and are not to be depended on to support diversity.*

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