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## **PART 7**

### **What USM and AACSB Actually Do**

University of Southern Mississippi and Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business representations advocating diversity are promises. Their actual practice, however, must be observed and the observations documented. A brief summary of USM and AACSB actual practices is provided as an overview before the detailed documentary evidence is presented in **PART 8**:

The Chairman of USM's Accreditation Committee, **George Carter**, economics professor and department chairman, emailed to USM's College of Business faculty documents for their review. They were ultimately to be submitted to the AACSB. Several faculty noticed that they were copied without citation. Some faculty, informally at first, then—after being ignored—in accordance with USM's Faculty Handbook, asked administrators and involved faculty why the documents were copied without citation. The College's Dean, **Harold Doty**, and involved faculty, including accounting professor **Charles Jordan** and marketing professor **Laurie Babin**, ignored the inquiries. USM administrators, including Vice President **Cecil Burge** and Ombudsman **John Harsh**, denied there were procedures to investigate apparent plagiarism. Instead, they sent the faculty, including Research Professor **Marc DePree**, to consult with the Director of USM's Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity, **Rebecca Woodrick**. She pointed out that her job did not include investigating plagiarism.

CoB Dean **Harold Doty** later submitted the questionable documents to the AACSB in satisfaction of accreditation standards. Since the AACSB was the recipient of the documents, several faculty believed it should be informed of the questionable nature of the documents. Evidence that the documents were copied “without proper citation” was offered to AACSB in accordance with its procedures. AACSB characterized the evidence as a “complaint.” Although AACSB's characterization is used here, the communications and documents are more accurately identified as information and a request for a dialogue.

AACSB decided the documents copied “without proper citation” did not violate its standards. However, a freedom of information request revealed a document in which an AACSB official warned against this

decision. Subsequently, USM President **Martha Saunders** suspended Research Professor **DePree** from teaching and service for asking questions and offering the documents to the AACSB. Research Professor **DePree** informed Interim Dean **Alvin Williams** and President **Saunders** that they were in violation of its principles of diversity of thought, freedom of speech, and academic freedom. He also advised the AACSB of his suspension and asked it to consider the punishment as a violation of AACSB's diversity standard. The AACSB refused. Furthermore, AACSB officials, including **Jerry Trapnell**, **Ted Cummings**, and **C. Edward Arrington** assisted USM administrators in punishing Research Professor **DePree** for his speech.

The documentation presented next in **PARTS 8 through 16** will demonstrate that the University of Southern Mississippi and the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business punish the diversity of ideas, that is, they do **not** allow practice of the free exchange of ideas.