

Part 13.

Questions directed to Ombudsman Gordon Claude Cannon at his deposition on April 16, 2010 about his investigation of Professor DePree with the charge of recommending whether to terminate DePree's tenure and employment: What did you draw your conclusions regarding number three (accusations of DePree being disruptive)?

Cannon: Item number three, primarily one issue, and that was the issue of placing these on the seat of -- students' seats in a class that he was not teaching, before the class, without permission of the instructor. That is, in my opinion, very disruptive.

Question: And what you show is a handbill that is included --

Cannon: Right.

Question: -- in the exhibit of your report?

Cannon: That's correct.

Question: And you included that in your report?

Cannon: Correct.

Question: Who reported this?

Cannon: Actually, Rod Posey gave me that, but I think also, I want to say, Dean Williams had a copy of it, as well. But by that time, I already had a copy.

Question: Did they claim to have seen Dr. DePree place the fliers in the seats?

Cannon: Did they specifically say that? I can't say that I remember. It's possible they did, but it could be that they just said that they assumed that he did. I don't really recall.

Question: Did you attempt to find out if he had, in fact, put them in the seats?

Cannon: No.

Drs. Posey, Williams, and Cannon admitted they did not have a shred of evidence for their assumption that Professor DePree placed flyers on the chairs of classroom seats. And they testified under oath to that lack of evidence. But their knowledge that no evidence existed did not stop them from continuing their unfounded accusations. To them placing flyers in classroom seats is a terrible crime and someone has to be punished for (what they consider) this unforgiveable crime. Dr. DePree had never seen the flyer and testified to that under oath. By the way, what did the flyer say? Was it a rallying cry for treason? Actually, the flyer said that there was a double standard in the CoB with regard to plagiarism. The dean

and faculty were not subject to ethical standards of plagiarism but students would be punished for plagiarizing.

Professor DePree has two peer reviewed published articles that address the issue of plagiarism at USM. Therefore, in the minds of Drs. Posey, Williams, and Cannon, Dr. DePree must be guilty of placing flyers about plagiarism in classroom seats. It doesn't require proof – just a desire to punish someone.

Remember, you may find your career in the hands of Drs. Posey, Williams, and Cannon or their ilk.

More about Drs. Posey and Williams will be provided in future series.