

## STATEMENT

WHEREAS the writings of our colleague Marc DePree consist largely of factually wrong, incomplete, one-sided, and poorly researched opinion;

WHEREAS his efforts cannot be mistaken for constructive criticism, but rather strike most as gratuitous smear campaigns and attempts at character assassination;

WHEREAS his invariably negative spin on the activities of faculty members, from senior administrators to newly hired assistant professors, creates an atmosphere of siege and is leading to an exodus of our most talented colleagues;

WHEREAS his borderline libelous rhetoric is harming the reputation of our (indeed, his) college and employer, the University of Southern Mississippi, and the State of Mississippi;

WHEREAS under the guise of open and free dialogue, the blog feeds current and prospective students a distorted image of the workings of academia, indeed the working world, and hurts our ability to attract good students;

WHEREAS some articles in his online publication can be perceived as xenophobic or "racially charged;"

WHEREAS the Internet publication of those writings will long remain visible through various search engines and thus constitutes irreparable damage;

WHEREAS we feel bullied by Mr. DePree and the four fellow "anonymous" collaborators hiding behind his name;

WHEREAS it is time for our college to become a friendly working environment with renewed collegiality and mutual respect;

WE ask that Mr. DePree and his collaborators cease and desist from further unconstructive activity.