

A Matter of Trust, part 3

A colleague from South Alabama reminded usmnews.net of issues associated with Alvin J. Williams' [lack of] credibility. As Interim Chair and Distinguished Professor of Marketing, he makes decisions about faculty, including recommendations to terminate tenured faculty based on what he admitted under oath to be fabricated cause. We are going to run a series of articles for your review. If you question whether these reports are taken out of context, please send a request for a complete copy of William's depositions. Here is the question, as a member of his faculty, do you have any reason to worry about his credibility or his decision making? See also, [Matter of Trust, part 1](#), [Matter of Trust part 2](#).

How does a Q&A dialogue unfold when an attorney catches a witness lying? Re: Alvin J. Williams, part 3

Here's one of many examples from our usmnews.net's archives of how a Q&A unfolds when an attorney catches a witness lying.

The following is the actual sworn testimony of Alvin J. Williams, then-Interim Dean, College of Business, University of Southern Mississippi, taken on June 4, 2008, in the case, *DePree v. University of Southern Mississippi*. (Q. is DePree's attorney's question directed to Williams; A. is Williams' response):

Williams' sworn testimony was that "there was a sense of urgency" for him to act and write a letter at the end of August 2007 requesting then-President Martha Saunders to fire DePree.

Q. Did you investigate it [accusations against DePree]?

A. I did not.

Q. Did you investigate it back during the [entire] summer when they [several faculty] came to you with verbal things [accusations about DePree]?

A. I did not.

Q. Did you interview Dr. Depree prior to writing your letter?

A. I did not.

Q. Did anybody make you aware that these faculty members either alone or in conjunction with each other or in conjunction with varying different people had sought to have Marc Depree removed or terminated or suspended prior to this time [and failed]?

A. Just by being in the college of business in Joseph Greene hall I had heard something but not in an official capacity.

Q. Did you not review his personnel file?

A. I did not.

Let's review Williams' sworn testimony that "there was a sense of urgency" for him to act and write a letter at the end of August 2007 requesting then-President Martha Saunders to fire DePree. The fact is Williams had the entire summer of 2007 to investigate allegations made against DePree and he didn't take the time to talk to DePree or even look at his personnel file [which would have advised him that DePree was tenured and promoted early because of his teaching and research performance].

He lied that "there was a sense of urgency" for him to act and write a letter requesting then-President Martha Saunders to fire DePree.

Williams' purpose was to lie about the facts so as to have testimony that would support firing DePree.

Williams got caught lying as did many of the other USM mobbers. He and they failed, but their disreputable behavior cost USM, that is students and taxpayers, better that \$2,500,000. If students should wonder why tuition continues to rise or taxpayers wonder why their taxes continue to rise without seeing improvement in USM or state services, all they need to do is review the archives at usmnews.net.

More important than the cost to students and taxpayers is the failure of accountability of Williams' misconduct. USM's attorneys, including Lee P. Gore, witnessed the lies. What should the consequence of such miscreant behavior be?

If they are not held to account, rest assured, you and others may be subject to the same misconduct. Why shouldn't they treat others the same way? After all, they didn't pay a price for their misconduct.

Keep in mind that Alvin Williams is now employed at the University of South Alabama. If I were a student, faculty, or administrator at USA, I should be aware of Williams' tendency to lie and bare false witness.