

Dear USM Colleagues,

My heartfelt sympathy goes to Dr. Greer for trying to work with President Saunders and her fellow administrators. ([See text of Dr. Greer's email to faculty.](#)) President Saunders and her colleague administrators are different than you. They do not adhere to the same academic principles you do. Integrity, for example, means something entirely different. They have in "their minds" a fuzzy notion of lockstep institutional public relations, not personal honesty. We'll discuss "integrity" in detail another day. However, you will get an inkling of what President Saunders' means by integrity in this report.

Dr. Greer may not have realized it, but her plea for cooperation and application of AAUP standards from the Saunders' administration has been answered. That's correct, President Saunders has answered each and every suggestion in Dr. Greer's letter to our USM "Colleagues." The following Q and A is Saunders' sworn testimony taken from a deposition in re *DePree v. Saunders, et al.* and applied to Dr. Greer's plea for cooperation.

**Question:** "Dr. Saunders, Dr. Greer has asked you to recognize and discuss that you have not declared 'financial exigency', followed AAUP guidelines, or consulted much with the faculty as you terminate many USM faculty. Do you plan to discuss these issues with the faculty?"

**Saunders answer:** "In my mind."

**Question:** "You mean in a discussion with them?"

**Saunders answer:** "No, in my mind."

**Question:** "Do you intend to discuss the issues with them?"

**Saunders answer:** "I could."

**Question:** "Do you intend to?"

**Saunders answer:** "I don't know."

**Question:** "When will you know?"

**Saunders answer:** "I can't answer that."

See President Saunders' actual testimony under oath for yourself: "What Martha Saunders Thinks", [part 26](#) and [part 28](#). If she answers questions under oath as she did there, what can't she do to you? Just as importantly, why would you think you are any different?

What are the consequences of such thinking? [Last year](#) 12 tenured and tenure track faculty were fired along with 15 non-tenure track faculty positions. This year 29 more tenure and tenure track faculty were handed [terminal contracts](#). All this was done without a [plan in place for appeals](#). More cuts are anticipated as the State braces for more shortfalls. Obviously, [our colleagues](#) and the [quality of academics](#) are not as important to Dr. Saunders as [her plane](#) or [sports](#). Some faculty are obviously [more equal](#) than [others](#). Some of your “colleagues” may help Dr. Saunders [dispose of you](#), too. At that time, you, and others who find themselves in the same boat will finally grasp the true predicament in which you find yourselves. Trouble is, that’ll be too late.

Good luck,

Marc DePree  
Editor