

University Administrators Part 4

University of Central Arkansas

ARAMARK

A Food Service Vendor at University of Southern Mississippi, Too

Administrators' Sympathy for Other Administrators

The Chronicle of Higher Education reported on September 2, 2011 that

“The University of Central Arkansas has lost its second president in a row to scandal. The university’s Board of Trustees announced this afternoon that it had [bought out the contract of the president](#), Allen C. Meadors, who aroused a storm of controversy this week for failing to let the full board know about the strings attached to a \$700,000 “gift” from Aramark, the university’s food-service vendor. The money, which was to be used for renovations of the president’s house, had been offered in return for a renewal of Aramark’s contract. Mr. Meadors and the board chairman, who also knew about the quid pro quo but regarded it as a routine arrangement, both apologized, but it was not enough to save Mr. Meadors’ job.”

http://chronicle.com/blogs/ticker/amid-furor-over-gift-u-of-central-arkansas-buys-out-presidents-contract/35920?sid=at&utm_source=at&utm_medium=en

UCA News reported, “[UCA Board Buys Out President’s Contract](#).

Posted in: [Campus News](#) on September 2, 2011

The University of Central Arkansas Board of Trustees voted unanimously during a special called meeting on Sept. 2 to buy out the contract of UCA President Allen Meadors... The board will pay Meadors his current salary through June 30, 2012. He will receive \$337,000 with private money for 18 more months. Meadors will stay on university insurance through June 30, 2012. His car allowance will end Oct. 1. He will also receive sick days and annual leave that have been accrued.”

Many quickly expressed outrage that administrators’ misconduct was richly rewarded with hundreds of thousands of dollars. Be clear, though. This is not an isolated event. For another example within just the past week, see, “[The Lessons from the University of Vermont](#).” And don’t think USM hasn’t rewarded its administrators in similar fashion. All you have to do is read the many reports about such practices on the pages of [usmnews.net](#).

What we’re witnessing at UCA, UVM, USM and other institutions of “higher learning” is

the sympathy of “leaders/politicians/administrators” for each other and their limited sympathy for others.

For what it’s worth, I don’t like it, because it breeds another kind of behavior which is more troublesome if not downright dangerous. I was happily researching and teaching when I couldn’t help but notice the administrative and faculty corruption at our school at the University of Southern Mississippi. One line of research I was conducting was cost efficiency of lawyers. That was fun, but I couldn’t help notice the spendthrifts around me, especially administrators and their ally faculty. Let me shorten the story. When they noticed they were subjects in my research, the administration and their ally faculty accused me of everything from harassing others, racism, and being a Virginia Tech danger. Let me shorten the report a bit more: The outcome, the University of Southern Mississippi and the state of Mississippi paid and are still paying my full salary, a total of six years, approx \$750k, to stay off campus and do nothing--just like the past president of UVM and UCA, but for different reasons, of course. As a matter of fact, our administrators probably wish I was doing nothing. (But why research some far off subjects, when I’ve got such a rich source close to home?)

Since I won the legal battle with USM administrators and their ally faculty, preserved my right to speech and my status and pay as a full professor, they didn’t get what they wanted most, my silence. Typically, litigation settlements end with confidentiality agreements--not so this time. So, the result, USM administrators use taxpayers’ and students’ money to pay me to stay at home and do very little until I reach retirement age, 66. And why not? It’s not their money? And who’s going to stop them? The governor of Mississippi, for example?

One of the documents I got through freedom of information was a bill from Governor Barbour’s lobbying firm for \$10,000 for “services rendered”. An ally faculty member to administration -- a faculty in the office next to mine -- tore it off my door. She testified under oath that she didn’t like having the invoice posted for everyone to see. Well, excuse the diversion. It’s easy to do.

If you’re interested in what all the fuss was about, see, “A General Theory to Test Social Reality,” “Is Accreditation a Reliable Authority on Academic Quality?” and “University and AACSB Diversity (diversity in the sense of freedom of speech)” free online at the Social Science Research Network. See, <http://ssrn.com/author=397169>

There are other research projects, but the citations above are a good place to start--if you’re interested.

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