

## Part 10

Questions directed to President Martha Saunders at her deposition on April 12 and 13, 2010--Q is question; A is President Saunders' answer.

Q. What did Dr. Depree allegedly do to make students and faculty fearful to go about their business?

A. Are you referring to Dr. Williams' letter or just in general?

Q. What evidence do you have period that Dr. Depree did anything to make faculty and students afraid to go with their usual business?

A. Well, I have the testimony of his colleagues in the department and a department chair and a dean.

Q. I thought you hadn't read their testimony.

A. Well, the letters.

Q. The letters are --

A. We're -- I'm using perhaps the wrong word.

Q. Have you made any efforts to confirm the allegations in those letters?

A. I appointed an ombudsman to try to sift through it all.

Q. Was he able to confirm these allegations?

A. He was not.

Around and around President Saunders goes: Accusations, ombudsman, no evidence, accusations, ombudsman, no evidence. But that didn't deter President Saunders from spending millions of dollars to punish a tenured full professor. What did the letters evidence? They evidenced an absolute intolerance of criticism, difficult questions or disagreement.

Future usmnews.net reports will serialize instances of speech that USM faculty and administrators refused to tolerate. The speech was peer reviewed and published. The reports should make for a constructive comparisons with the unfounded accusations on which President Saunders acted. The reports will provide evidence, from the mouths and records, of the faculty and administrators who found Dr. DePree's speech intolerable.

In other words, President Saunders chose to take action without a shred of evidence against Dr. DePree. Just as significantly, she refused to take action when confronted with overwhelming evidence of misconduct by his accusers.

USM administrators complain that their comments are taken out of context. At the end of this multi-part series, we will provide readers with a complete transcript of President Saunders' depositions. (Anyone who would like a copy now, please send an email to [marcdepree@gmail.com](mailto:marcdepree@gmail.com).) If you are offended by the usmnews.net series reporting her testimony, after you read the transcript, we believe you will wonder why the IHL hired her and continues to support her presidency.