

Part 17

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

Q. Lets go back to your affidavit for a minute?

A. (Saunders looks at document.)

Q. You say in paragraph five: As president of the university I take very seriously allegations of threatening and disruptive behavior; is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. And is that true?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you received claims of disruptive intimidating and frightening behavior by other faculty in the college of business?

A. Not that I recall.

Q. Do you recall being present when Dr. Sean Salter testified that Dr. Niroomand berated him for an hour without allowing him to sit down, became red faced, agitated, and said he ought to -- and I quote -- kick your ass?

A. I don't recall that.

Q. Do you have any reason to believe that's false?

A. Did you say that he testified?

Q. Yes.

A. Then I would assume it's true.

Q. Did you take any action concerning Dr. Niroomand?

A. No.

Q. You didn't take that claim seriously?

A. It wasn't brought to me.

Q. You were sitting in the courtroom Dr. Saunders?

A. But wasn't brought to me.

Q. So it has to be put in writing and delivered to you?

A. We have several layers of discipline on the campus. My assumption is that the appropriate action would have been taken at another level or it would have gotten to me.

Q. Do you recall Dr. Mixon testifying and Dr. Salter testifying that Dr. Cherilyn Becker and I quote -- went ballistic screaming at a secretary 'get away from me with that petty shit', yelling and screaming at a secretary?

A. I don't recall.

Q. But if it was testified to in open court

A. I would have heard it.

Q. And do you consider that serious?

A. Screaming? Yes.

Q. Screaming and swearing at a secretary?

A. Yes.

Q. Loud enough until faculty is coming down the hallway?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you take any action?

A. No.

Q. Have you conducted any investigation of that?

A. No.

Q. Do you recall Dr. Mixon testifying during a meeting with Dr. Niroomand, Dr. Niroomand had to verbally and physically restrained by Drs. Carter and Doty?

A. No.

Q. Were you present when Dr. Mixon testified at the temporary restraining order hearing?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you take any action concerning that?

A. No.

Q. Did you consider those allegations serious?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you recall Dr. Mixon reporting that Dr. Doty had threatened him the day after he testified at the hearing on the TRO?

A. Yes.

Q. What action was taken to that?

A. I asked the dean to investigate, dean Williams to investigate.

Q. Why wasn't Dr. Doty removed from Joseph Greene Hall?

A. I don't recall the outcome of the investigation. I'd have to go back and review.

Q. Was Dr. Doty, to the best of your knowledge, ever removed from Joseph Greene Hall?

A. No.

Q. Did you take any action other than asking Dr. Williams to investigate?

A. No.

Q. Did you ask anybody to investigate the claims against Dr. Depree other than the ombudsman?

A. No.

Q. Did you ask the ombudsman to investigate the claims concerning Dr. Doty?

A. No.

President Saunders demanded an investigation of Dr. DePree for vague, general, unsupported and later discredited allegations. Certainly, Dr. Doty was not "investigated" by a so-called independent ombudsman. President Saunders did not

even consider requesting an investigation of Associate Dean Niroomand or Chairperson Becker for allegations of assault that were supported by specific and detailed sworn evidence.

Dr. Saunders' concerns relating to threatening and disruptive behavior are, according to her own testimony, limited to one person. In fact, she continues to punish that one person, in the absence of a scintilla of proof. Remember, if you are actually assaulted or threatened, don't expect Dr. Saunders to do anything. And if cowards join together to accuse you of misconduct without any evidence, you can expect Dr. Saunders to punish you. That's what her testimony teaches us.