

## Part 18

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

Q. In paragraph six of [your] affidavit, did you state that Dr. Williams told you that Dr. Depree was the only accounting faculty member deemed neither academically [AQ] nor professionally qualified [PQ]?

A. That's what it says, yes.

Q. And did you rely on that?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And is that true?

A. I assume so.

Q. One moment, please. Assuming for a moment that there were other faculty in the accounting department who were determined to be neither AQ nor PQ, would Dr. Williams have made a false statement to you?

A. Well, if there were others he would be wrong.

Q. It would be -- the statement would be false?

A. Yes.

Q. And if he made such a representation to you for the purpose of having a tenured full professor fired, would you consider that a serious matter?

A. Yes.

Q. If that statement was false?

A. If he did it with that intention, yes.

Q. He intended to have Dr. Depree fired didn't he?

A. I don't know.

Q. That's what his letter asked you to do, wasn't it?

A. I'd have to go back and look at the letter.

Q. Please take a look at his letter.

A. (Saunders looks at document.) Yes.

Q. He wanted Dr. Depree fired?

A. [Quoting Williams' letter, Saunders said] I feel Dr. Depree must be terminated.

Q. I'm going to provide you an excerpt from the AACSB maintenance accreditation report prepared and submitted to AACSB. Would you like to see the complete document or just the excerpt? Let me just provide you the complete document.

A. Yes, please.

Q. And I will turn the page I want you to look at sideways...And, of course, you're welcome to look at any portion of that you wish, but I have turned sideways the specific page.

A. Give me a minute (Saunders looks at document).

Q. For the record, would you state what the document you have in your possession is?

A. It says: AACSB Maintenance of Accreditation Report, College of Business, the University of Southern Mississippi, December 1st, 2006.

Q. Thank you.

A. (Saunders looks at document.) Okay.

Q. If you would, go to the page I've turned sideways. What is that page labeled?

A. School of accountancy and information systems. It has a list of faculty, whether they are academically qualified or professionally qualified.

Q. Is Dr. Depree the only one listed there as being neither AQ nor PQ?

A. No.

Q. How many are listed as neither AQ nor PQ?

A. Two.

Q. And Dr. Williams made a false statement to you in making that claim?

A. Well, I don't know, because this is the self-report that the college puts together in anticipation of the visit.

Q. Yes, so even by the --

A. What he says is that the visiting team -- I don't know if he said they drew that conclusion, but during the visit, Dr. Depree was the only one, so I don't know that.

EXHIBIT LETTER G WAS MARKED AND HANDED TO SAUNDERS

(Saunders looks at document.)

Q. If I represent to you that Exhibit G is the final table submitted to AACSB for their determination, does that show Dr. Depree is the only one neither AQ nor PQ?

A. No.

Q. So Dr. Williams' statement is false?

A. Tell me again where this came from.

Q. That was the final table submitted at the request of AACSB. It was provided by your counsel.

A. I'm sorry, but I don't know if I can answer that, because there may be some gaps in my understanding of when this happened and when this happened (indicating).

Q. That was the 2006 accreditation.

A. Final report.

Q. The final report.

A. But he's referring to the visiting team's report in 2007, so I can't answer that. I'm sorry.

Q. But based on the information there, is there any reason to believe that Dr. Depree was the only one neither AQ nor PQ?

A. What you have shown me, I see two faculty.

Q. Okay. Have you conducted any investigation of this matter?

A. No.

Q. And I believe you said you read your deposition?

A. I did.

Q. Before appearing here today?

A. I did.

Q. And, in fact, Mr. Fountain raised the same question with you [in 2008], didn't he?

A. He may have. I didn't memorize it.

Q. Did you make any inquiry?

A. About?

Q. About whether Dr. Depree was the only accounting professor neither AQ nor PQ?

A. I don't recall.

Q. Do you know if there are other professors in the college of business who are neither AQ nor PQ?

A. I don't know that.

#### EXHIBIT LETTER H WAS GIVEN TO SAUNDERS

Saunders looks at document.

Q. That's a listing that appears to be of other faculty in the college of business, am I correct, Dr. Saunders?

A. It has another department.

Q. Okay. What department is that?

A. Economics, finance, and international business.

Q. Are there faculty in economics, finance and international business who are not academically or professionally qualified?

A. This table indicates there are three.

Q. Were any of these faculty excluded from Joseph Greene Hall [as DePree was]?

A. No.

Q. Were they assigned to full-time research [as DePree was]?

A. No.

This reporter usually adds some comment to explain or provide context to Dr. Saunders' testimony. However, based on such incredible testimony, what can one really add to Dr. Saunders' words? Her behavior goes beyond simple indifference or mere incompetence. Based on statements that were false, and which the University's counsel knew were false, Dr. Saunders singled out for punishment the editor of usmnews.net. She took no action to investigate or punish those who made false statements. To the contrary, she has rewarded and sheltered them.

Remember, Dr. Saunders can do the same thing to you. What is your hard-earned tenure really worth?