

Part 32

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

Q. Now, did you review Dr. Jackson's [Interim Director of Accounting] deposition?

A. No.

Q. Did you review his letter [Jackson's letter to Saunders recommended DePree be fired]?

A. Which letter?

Q. To you that supported your letter dated August 21st, 2007 [in which Saunders banned DePree from the business building and advised him he was being processed for termination]?

A. Yes.

Q. Would you, please, look at that? I believe it's an exhibit to your deposition of May 2008.

A. (Saunders looks at document.) All right.

Q. Did Dr. Jackson in his letter say that Dr. Depree had a destructive impact?

A. (Saunders looks at document.) I don't see those words exactly.

Q. Is there anything in there that suggests -- let me pull my copy of the letter. Would you look at the second literary paragraph?

A. Yes.

Q. And I believe there he says that: Dr. Depree, one person, Dr. Depree has a --

A. I see it now.

Q. -- destructive impact?

A. I see it now. Thank you.

Q. Dr. Saunders, I'm going to hand you a copy of Dr. Jackson's deposition. Once again, I have turned to the page where I would like for you to begin looking (hands over document).

A. (Saunders looks at document.)

Q. I believe it's page 21. And, of course, you're welcome to look at any other pages. And commencing the question [to Dr. Jackson]: Did you observe anything which led you to believe that he, Dr. Depree, was having a destructive impact on the college of business or in the school of accountancy? And what was his answer to that question?

A. No.

Q. That's inconsistent with his letter to you, isn't it?

A. It is.

Clearly, President Saunders made significant decisions during the three years of removing Professor DePree from his classroom and his office while pointedly ignoring the fact that the letters she had relied on in 2007 were admitted by the authors to be false. Even though Dr. Saunders admits that she did not review sworn testimony that had been, for several years, readily available to her, she continues to rely on them to punishment Professor DePree.

This is not just incompetence. This is not just an abuse of authority. She is, in her own words, admitting negligence sufficient to terminate her employment for cause.

What is your hard earned tenure really worth?