

Part 33

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

Q. Dr. Saunders, I'd like to ask you to continue with our review of Dr. Jackson's deposition.

A. (Witness looks at document.)

Q. And I believe we were on page 21.

A. 21.

Q. Would you look at the bottom of the page of 21? I believe the question is -- actually the question is yes and Dr. Jackson begins stating: I was told that the folks thought he was recording conversations. Have you found that?

A. On page 21?

Q. I believe so. I think we're working from different copies?

A. He said: I was told the reason doors were shut?

Q. Uh-huh (affirmative). And why was he told doors were shut?

A. [Saunders reading Interim Director Jackson's sworn testimony] The reason students weren't as active over there, the reasons no one wanted to talk was because of Dr. Depree.

Q. Did he indicate that he ever saw Dr. Depree do anything to make people uncomfortable?

A. No -- yes, he indicated, and the answer was "no."

Q. Would you check to see if Dr. Jackson ever saw Dr. Depree record anything?

A. (Witness looks at document.) I see that question.

Q. What was his answer?

A. No.

President Saunders is making decisions to fire a tenured professor without the least concern for the evidence she had in her possession. She is relying on Interim

Director Jackson's letter recommending firing Professor DePree, even though Dr. Jackson's sworn testimony contradicted that letter.

Details from Interim Director Jackson's letter to Dr. Saunders and his sworn testimony will be the subject of a series of reports in the near future. However, a short anecdote about the quality of Dr. Jackson's behavior and Dr. Saunders' lack of concern about that behavior is instructive. A student was driving along side Dr. DePree on 98 West. The student motioned Dr. DePree to pull over. They stopped. The student and a friend had just been confronted by Dr. Jackson. Dr. Jackson offered a higher grade in return for saying something negative about Dr. DePree. All USM administrators and their counsel were advised, yet none investigated the matter. Did they condone Dr. Jackson's attempted use of student grades to procure termination of Dr. DePree's tenure and employment?

To get an idea of what his students think about Professor DePree, visit the bottom of the following USM webpage:

http://www.usm.edu/business/faculty_staff/accounting_mis/Depree/courses.html

What is your hard-earned tenure really worth?