

Part 37

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

Q. Would it concern you if Dr. Jackson [Interim Director of USM's School of Accountancy] testified that he had not read Dr. DePree's research product?

A. I would find that odd, that a department chair had not done that.

Q. Would you go to page 40?

A. (Witness looks at document.) Okay.

Q. And I believe it starts about line 22: [Attorney reads questions directed to Interim Director Jackson at his deposition.] Okay. It's my understanding that Dr. DePree created a case study based in the Wall Street Journal; is that correct?

A. [Saunders reading Interim Director Jackson's answer.] That's what I hear.

Q. Have you reviewed that case study?

A. [Saunders reading Interim Director Jackson's answer.] I've never seen it.

Q. Have you asked to review it?

A. [Saunders reading Interim Director Jackson's answer.] No.

Q. And you say that case study doesn't have anything to do with managerial accounting?

A. [Saunders reading Interim Director Jackson's answer.] Not in my mind.

Q. How could you make that determination if you hadn't reviewed the case study?

A. [Saunders reading Interim Director Jackson's answer.] Because managerial accounting has nothing to do with the use of the Wall Street Journal or the ethical behavior of the dean.

Q. How can he say that if he hadn't read it?

A. I don't know.

Q. Does it trouble you that a department chairman does not read publications before he reviews -- before he assigns rates [i.e., scores the research in DePree's annual evaluation]?

A. It would be unusual, although I'm not sure they all do.

Q. Do you know if Dr. Jackson read any of Dr. Depree's publications?

A. No.

Q. Have you asked him?

A. No.

Q. Were you aware that Dr. Jackson copied portions of a previous years' evaluations rather than seek or rely on objective evidence for his scores [of DePree's annual evaluation]?

A. No.

Interim Director Jackson refused to read (or perhaps he simply didn't bother because he had already made up his mind what the outcome would be and the content was irrelevant) Dr. DePree's research but scored his research as unsatisfactory in his annual evaluation. That decision was in spite of an "A" level publication which warranted an excellent score for DePree's research. President Saunders knew these details and still affirmed the unsatisfactory evaluation. She chose to participate in the mobbing of Professor DePree. [A future series will chronicle Interim Director Jackson's administrative misconduct.]

If your comments, dear colleagues, are not acceptable public relations nonsense, what is your tenure worth?