

Part 6

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 four of your [President Saunders] letter, you state that on August 21 [2007] you received a letter from Dr. Williams, interim dean of the college of business. Would you tell me what you said there?

A. On August 21st, 2007, I received a letter from Alvin J. Williams, interim dean of the college of business. Dr. Williams' letter indicated that quote: Over the past several years, Dr. Depree has engaged in behaviors that have severely constrained the capacity of the school of accountancy and information systems and the college of business to function at levels necessary to foster an appropriate learning environment for students and a collegial atmosphere for faculty to teach conduct research and perform professional service. The letter also said that Dr. Depree has helped create an environment in which faculty members and students do not feel safe to go about their usual business in Joseph Greene Hall. Dr. Williams' letter described additional negative and disruptive behaviors.

Q. Let's go back and look at this in some detail. What behaviors did Dr. Williams tell you that Dr. Depree had engaged in that constrained the capacity of the schools to foster an appropriate learning environment?

A. I don't recall.

Q. You have a copy of his letter attached to your deposition, I believe, the deposition, Dr. Saunders.

A. (Saunders looks at document.)

Q. Could you tell me specifically what conduct that Dr. Depree is alleged to engage in that severely constrained the capacity of any portion of the college of business?

A. One of the things Dr. Williams mentions is the -- that Dr. Depree used what was perceived as a recording device without permission to record conversations between faculty members as well as faculty and students.

Q. Let me stop you there. He says perceived does that mean he had a recording device?

A. It does not.

Q. Does that not throw up a red flag that it might not be true that there wasn't a recording device?

A. It could not be true.

Q. And do you have any evidence to believe that Dr. Depree recorded anyone in the college of business?

A. I have the allegations and no evidence.

Q. And actually Dr. Depree -- you were present when Dr. Depree testified at the temporary restraining order hearing, were you not?

A. Yes.

Q. And what did Dr. Depree say?

A. My memory is a little fuzzy, but as I recall he said he did not use a recording device.

Q. And again you did not review the depositions of anyone to see if they testified --

A. No.

Q. -- that they had observed him?

A. No.

Q. And if I told you within the content of these depositions there was no one that ever observed Dr. Depree record, would you disagree?

A. I couldn't.

Q. And if no one saw him record them and if he says he didn't what evidence do you have?

A. I would have none.

President Saunders did not have any evidence that DePree ever recorded anyone at USM. More importantly, as an indication of her competence to be president of a university, she did not care to look at the evidence that was readily available to her. (See also [part 2](#), [part 3](#), [part 4](#), and [part 5](#).) If President Saunders' other decisions appear haphazard and not well grounded, now you know why. Facts and evidence don't matter.