

Part 8

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

Q. Are there any specific allegations in there [Interim Dean Williams' letter to President Saunders] of misconduct by Dr. Depree?

A. Well, the allegations are that he recorded without permission, the allegations are that he engaged in disruptive behavior.

Q. You have allegations. What evidence do you have to support those allegations?

A. None here.

Q. Do you have any evidence anywhere to support those allegations?

A. I do not.

Q. Have you looked for any evidence to support those allegations?

A. No.

Q. Do you intend to look for evidence to support those allegations?

A. I don't, no.

Q. Are you not concerned that the possibility that a senior faculty member at this university could be falsely accused?

A. That is a concern.

Q. What action have you taken to determine if he has been falsely accused?

A. I asked for an investigation by an ombudsman.

Q. And that's all?

A. That's all.

Q. And was [ombudsman] Dr. Cannon able to confirm any of these statements?

A. He was not able to confirm them.

As you read the questions and President Saunders' answers, it's hard to believe anyone in a position of responsibility cares so little about having evidence and reasons for important

decisions. Who holds her accountable for her unsupported decisions? Or do the people to whom she reports fail to apply reason and evidence to their decisions, too? If the answer is no one holds her accountable and no one at the top requires reason or evidence for decisions, just what is your hard-earned tenure really worth? All it takes is a little malicious gossip that has no basis in fact, and Dr. Saunders may order you from your classroom and offices while she tries to cook up a reason to fire you.

What are A-level publications worth? What are outstanding teaching evaluations worth? If Dr. Saunders wants you gone, absolutely nothing.