

Part 9

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

Bear in mind as you read the following, President Saunders has already testified that she has no evidence that DePree ever recorded anyone at USM. Dr. DePree testified under oath that he had not recorded anyone at USM. Every person who wrote a letter alleging that Dr. DePree had recorded them had admitted under oath that none of them had ever seen him record anything. It was all fabricated.

Q. What specific allegations, what does he [Interim Director Williams in August 2007] say Dr. Depree did?

A. Well, he says that Dr. Depree engaged in behaviors over several years.

Q. What are those behaviors?

A. Well, for example, the recording device.

Q. But we have no reason to believe that Dr. Depree ever recorded?

A. You didn't ask me what he said.

Q. No, I'm asking you what evidence you have. Well, let's talk about what he said. Do you have any evidence to support Dr. Williams' claims that Dr. Depree recorded?

A. I do not.

Q. And if he did not record that would not be conduct that constrained the functioning nature of the college of business?

A. If he did not record -- I think perception. I disagree there. I think perception that he was recorded would constrain.

Q. How is Dr. Depree responsible for somebody else's perception?

A. I don't know that he is.

Q. But he's been punished for it?

A. He's being held accountable.

Q. He's being held accountable for things for which you have no evidence?

A. Correct.

President Saunders testimony became more and more bizarre as questions were asked and answered.

Let me see if I can get this part straight. Let's try a hypothetical. President Saunders, faculty, in their minds, believe you plagiarized your commencement speech. Accusations are made. Adopting your testimony, you should be held accountable. First, you deserve to be publicly pilloried. Then you should be cast out from the university community. Someone should take action to fire you.

The evidence against you? There is none! They testified under oath that they had no evidence that you plagiarized your last commencement speech. But they truly believe you did plagiarize it. Their perceptions, nevertheless, warrant your dismissal. You must be held accountable!

President Saunders' bizarre reasoning, which is too ridiculous to be accorded the status of *non sequitur*, out-Kafkas Kafka.