

www.usmnews.net provides news and opinion reports on a variety of issues. This week we begin a series "President Saunders under Oath." The quotes are extracted from a deposition given by Dr. Saunders on May 15, 2008. Depositions are public record. The Q&A below is a portion of her deposition and has been edited only to remove repetition. Although Dr. Saunders has not engaged in the legal formality of reading and signing the deposition, the text has been confirmed with a videotaped deposition. As always, Dr. Saunders, and anyone else, is invited to comment and/ or correct any reports or opinions published on this website. *Marc DePree*

Part I

Nullification of the Faculty Grievance Process

"A." indicates President Saunders' answer. "Q" indicates the attorney's question.

Q. Okay. At which of these Universities [West Florida, Columbus State, Wisconsin Whitewater, and Southern Miss] would you have been involved in the processing of any grievances?

A. At all of them at some level.

Q. So is it fair to say you are familiar with the processing of grievances from administrative standpoint?

A. Yes.

.....

Q. [W]ere you aware that you had in the office of president of USM grievance filed by Dr. Depree relating to his annual evaluations for the years 03, 04, 05, 06?

A. When he wrote me, no.

Q. Okay. After he wrote you, you became aware at that point [May/June 2007]?

A. Well, he told me that they were there. And that I believe I agreed to take a look at that.

Q. And in fact, he sent you copies of them?

A. (Witness nods in the affirmative).

.....

Q. Okay. Have you ever to this day reviewed Dr. Depree grievances related to his annual evaluations?

A. No.

.....

Q. And you have no idea or no way to evaluate the value of the information that might have been contained in those grievances because you've never reviewed them?

A. Correct.

Q. Okay. What do you think is a reasonable length of time for a grievance especially one concerning a annual evaluation to sit on a president of a Universities desk?

A. I don't know that there is any specific time, I would think that the president would want to get to it as soon as possible....."