

**Gardner Webb University  
facing another MAJOR  
SCANDAL!!! Special Meeting  
of GWU Board of  
Trustees—MONDAY!! 3/20/2023  
BoT Whistleblower wants to  
save GWU from alleged  
corruption. Some GWU BoTs  
want to oust the  
whistleblower BoT member(s)  
Copycat scandals and cover-  
ups spreading to CCS School  
Board and Commissioners  
meetings! Reports, alleged  
corruption and miscellaneous  
information provided by  
Robert A**

**Editor's Note: Present reported scandals include reports of  
financial/accounting shenanigans, major decline in student  
attendance, massive faculty flight and poor leadership and  
management practices that threatens GWU's continued existence.**

Folks, most everybody in Cleveland County knows about the founding of Gardner Webb College over 100 years ago. It's deep Baptist beginnings and continued influence and traditions, etc. that has become severely tarnished in more recent years by scandals of "grade fixing" to allow a failing "Star" basketball player to continue being eligible to play basketball. Then there was a "land-flip" scandal where land that was bequeathed to GWU was "flipped" in such a way that local politicians made tons of cash by purchasing the land one minute from GWU and exactly one minute later sold the land to Cleveland County. And more than doubled their money in that fraudulent process. All under the guidance of a Cleveland County Commissioner that was also serving as a GWU BoT. And all kinds of things in between. **Robert A** "calculates" that every taxpayer in Cleveland County, over the past 30 years, has in one way or another been cheated out of his (or her) tax dollars because of some scam perpetrated by GWU leadership and their accomplices.

And, then there is the Cover-up. The retaliation against anybody that tells anybody about what criminal and unethical things that happen.

And the copy-cats. The ones that see the top leaders with their hands in the cookie-jar and decide they want something for themselves too. After a while the graft and corruption build up into a "Critical Mass" and explodes into such massive waste that the cash flow process "implodes" from all the money that is now missing from the various check books in the overall system.

It seems that this might be where GWU is right now. The corruption explosion is now an implosion of cash and credit that has caused corners to be cut and students and faculty to leave the sinking shell of what was once a vibrant and proud institution. And all that is left is finger pointing,

retaliation, blame shitting and in-fighting over the scraps that might be left over.

So, this coming Monday, March 20, 2023 is the showdown. Oliver Max Gardner III is the whistleblower that has been sounding the alarm that GWU's 13th President, Dr. William "Bill" M. Downs, is destroying the institution that bares Max's family name. Mr. David Royster III, a GWU BoT member (also associated with Royster Oil Company) and was the Chairman of the GWU BoT Presidential Search Committee that selected Dr. Downs as the 13<sup>th</sup> President of GWU is the BoT member who called this special BoT meeting for the purpose of OUSTING Max Gardner from the GWU Board of Trustees and appears to be using lots of dirty tricks in the process. Mr. Royster also owned a major interest in Peanut Corporation of America when PCA's alleged lack of sanitary operations led to rat infestations at its Georgia plant that allegedly a nationwide outbreak of salmonella that killed nine and hospitalized hundreds of others, causing PCA to soon-thereafter file for bankruptcy. It is presently unknown whether or not Mr. Royster was ever charged with any criminal offense in regard to negligence in the operation of that Georgia PCA plant that killed and injured so many people. It is also not presently known what, if any, interest Mr. Royster might have or previously had in the alleged oil contamination of Royster Oil Company property on East Dixon Boulevard in Shelby near the Hickory Creek Bridge.

As far as the retaliation and dirty tricks against Max Gardner, that is still under investigation. Also, the results of this March 20, 2023 GWU BoT meeting.

Folks, you have probably figured out by now that the far-reaching copy-cat stuff that appears to be manifesting itself on the School Board and Commissioners Board is also still under investigation. And that there will have to be a series of articles about all of this "stuff." So, stay tuned. By now

you should recognize the fact that Robert is NOT going to allow such shenanigans to go unnoticed and unreported. But what you do about it is going to be up to YOU. Lile run for office yourself. Or vote for Robert A and others if they decide to run for office.