

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
December 18, 2008**

BE IT REMEMBERED, That the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning of the State of Mississippi met in a regular session at the Board Office in Jackson, Mississippi, at 10:00 a.m., and pursuant to notice in writing mailed by certified letter with return receipt requested on November 27, 2007, to each and every member of said Board, said date being at least five days prior to this December 18, 2008 meeting. At the above-named place there were present the following members to wit: Mr. H. Ed Blakeslee, Dr. Stacy Davidson, Mr. Bob Owens, Mr. Aubrey B. Patterson, Mr. Alan Perry, Ms. Christine Pickering, Ms. Robin J. Robinson, Mr. Scott Ross, Dr. Douglas Rouse, Mr. C.D. Smith and Ms. Amy Whitten. Dr. Bettye Henderson Neely was absent. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Ms. Amy Whitten, President.

SYSTEM STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Ms. Whitten noted that the Board devised four major goals during its retreat in August and requested the IHL Board staff to develop a plan for achieving each goal. Three staff members gave a presentation outlining their recommendations.

Dr. Jim Borsig, IHL Assistant Commissioner for Governmental Relations and Special Projects, spoke about the first two goals and gave several recommendations for achieving each goal.

Goal #1: Strategic Initiative: More Graduates of Even Higher Quality

Staff Recommendation #1:

- Consider graduation stretch goals as submitted by the institutions
- Focus on working with institutions to set university recruitment and retention stretch goals in the Spring 2009
- Prepare stretch goals for teachers, nurses and social workers
- Create a focused enrollment management effort
- Develop an explicit tie to the allocation formula

Goal #2: Five-Year Funding Plan

Staff Recommendation #2:

- Directly engage the Board, the System staff, the Institutional Executive Officers and the institutions in legislative grassroots efforts and
- Engage the State and business community in legislative grassroots efforts

Dr. Linda McFall, IHL Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Administration, spoke about the third goal and gave a recommendation for achieving this goal.

Goal #3: System Efficiency and Effectiveness

Staff Recommendation #3:

- Evaluate existing and potential efficiency opportunities and develop specific steps to address these opportunities

Ms. Annie Mitchell, IHL Director of Media Relations, Communications, and Marketing, spoke about the fourth goal and gave recommendations for achieving this goal.

Goal #4: Outreach Plan for More Postsecondary Education

Staff Recommendation #4:

- Create a communication subcommittee of the Board for this and other communication issues
- Find sustainability dollars for the outreach effort at the completion of the College Access Challenge Grant.

Dr. Borsig then presented two additional recommendations:

Staff Recommendation #5: Other strategic considerations of the Board should include:

- Economic development and research focus
- Establish a formal partnership between IHL and the State Workforce Investment Board
- Forge strategic partnerships (education partners/alumni and business leadership)

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Staff Recommendation #6: Based on full System collaboration, develop a comprehensive **Work Plan**, with the next steps to include:

- Assignment of staff to determine tasks, deadlines, calendar and critical path
- Finalize performance measures for accountability and transparency

On motion by Ms. Pickering, seconded by Ms. Robinson, with Dr. Neely and Mr. Smith absent and not voting, the Board adopted the plan outlined above to achieve the four goals for the next year and authorized the staff to move forward with the next step in the planning process.

Dr. Davidson complimented President Whitten and the Board staff for condensing the goals and assisting the Board with recognizing and focusing on its priorities. Ms. Pickering congratulated the staff on a great presentation and noted that it pulls together the Board's strategic initiatives in a way that the Board can develop a plan that will be measurable and attainable. Ms. Whitten noted that Mr. Ed Blakeslee has been the driving force on the strategic initiatives. She commended the Board staff for working together on this project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Mr. Perry, with Dr. Neely and Mr. Smith absent and not voting, the Board voted to close the meeting to determine whether or not it should declare an Executive Session. On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Perry, with Dr. Neely and Mr. Smith absent and not voting, the Board **voted to go into Executive Session** for the reason reported to the public and stated in these minutes, as follows:

Discussion of a personnel matter at the Board Office.

During Executive Session, the following matter was discussed:

The Board discussed a personnel matter at the Board Office.

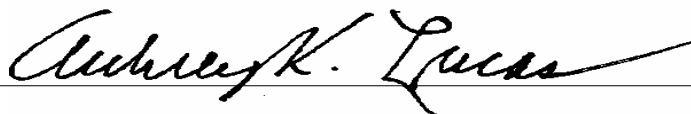
On motion by Ms. Robinson, seconded by Ms. Whitten, with Dr. Neely absent and not voting, the Board voted to return to Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Mr. Perry, seconded by Ms. Robinson, with Dr. Neely absent and not voting, the Board members voted to adjourn.



President, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning



Interim Commissioner, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning