

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
November 5, 2008**

BE IT REMEMBERED, That the Mississippi State University Presidential Search Committee met at the Board Office in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:00 p.m., and pursuant to notice in writing to each and every member of said Committee, said date being at least five days prior to this November 5, 2008 meeting. At the above-named place there were present the following Committee members to wit: Mr. Scott Ross (Chair), Mr. H. Ed Blakeslee, Mr. Aubrey B. Patterson, Dr. Douglas Rouse, and Mr. C.D. Smith. Ms. Robin Robinson, a committee member, was absent. The following Mississippi State University Interview Search Advisory Committee (MSU ISAC) members were present to wit: Dr. Bill Kibler, Vice President for Student Affairs and Chairman of the Search Advisory Committee; Dr. Susan Bridges, Professor of Computer Science and Engineering; Mr. Braxton Coombs, Student Body President; Dr. Linda Cornelious, Professor and Interim Head of Instructional Systems and Workforce Development; Mr. David Jones, Past President of the MSU Alumni Association; Dr. Melissa Moore, Associate Professor of Marketing; and Ms. Joy Odom, MSU Staff Council President. MSU ISAC member, Dr. Lynne Richardson who is the Dean of the College of Business and Industry was absent. Dr. Aubrey Lucas, Interim Commissioner of Higher Education, the search consultant, Mr. Jerry Baker of Baker and Associates, LLC in Atlanta, Georgia; and Board members Dr. Stacy Davidson, Dr. Bettye Neely, Mr. Bob Owens, Mr. Alan Perry, Ms. Christy Pickering and Ms. Amy Whitten also attended the meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Scott Ross.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Mr. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Blakeslee, with Ms. Robinson absent and not voting, the Committee voted to close the meeting to determine whether or not it should declare an Executive Session. On motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Dr. Rouse, with Ms. Robinson absent and not voting, the Committee **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 Mississippi State University.

During Executive Session, the following matters were discussed and/or voted upon:

The Mississippi State University Presidential Search Committee conducted a second round of interviews for the final candidates.

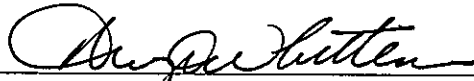
On motion by Mr. Blakeslee, seconded by Dr. Rouse, with Ms. Robinson absent and not voting, the Committee recommended that the Board approve Dr. Mark Keenum, current Under Secretary of Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, as the preferred candidate for the position of President at Mississippi State University. On Wednesday, November 12, 2008, Dr. Keenum will participate in open, day-long interviews on the MSU campus with various university and community constituency groups.

On motion by Mr. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Smith, with Ms. Robinson absent and not voting, the Committee voted to return to Open Session.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion by Mr. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Blakeslee, with Ms. Robinson absent and not voting, the Committee 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