BE IT REMEMBERED, That the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning of the State of Mississippi met in a special session held at the Thad Cochran Center on the University of Southern Mississippi campus in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, at 12:30 p.m. At the above-named place there were present the following members to wit: Mr. H. Ed Blakeslee, Mrs. Karen L. Cummins (by phone), Dr. Ford Dye, Mr. Shane Hooper (by phone), Mr. Bob Owens (by phone), Mr. Aubrey B. Patterson (by phone), Mr. Alan Perry, Ms. Christine Pickering, Dr. Douglas Rouse, and Mr. C.D. Smith. Mr. Hal Parker and Ms. Robin J. Robinson were absent. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ed Blakeslee, President.

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann., §25-41-1, as amended, all votes taken during this teleconference meeting were recorded by name in a roll-call. The meeting was held to discuss personnel issues related to the presidential search at the University of Southern Mississippi.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Trustee Perry, seconded by Trustee Hooper, with Trustee Parker and Robinson absent and not voting and with Trustees Cummins, Hooper, Owens, and Patterson participating by phone, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine whether or not it should declare an Executive Session. On motion by Trustee Perry, seconded by Trustee Hooper, with Trustees Parker and Robinson absent and not voting and with Trustees Cummins, Hooper, Owens, and Patterson participating by phone, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to go into Executive Session for the reason reported to the public and stated in these minutes, as follows:

Discussion of state university personnel matter.

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

On motion by Trustee Rouse, seconded by Trustee Pickering, with Trustees Parker and Robinson absent and not voting and with Trustees Cummins, Hooper, Owens, and Patterson participating by phone, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to hire Dr. Rodney Bennett as the next president of the University of Southern Mississippi at a total salary of $375,000, which is to include a foundation and/or alumni association salary supplement as well as the state base salary, to authorize Commissioner Bounds to negotiate the start date of a standard four-year contract, and to authorize entering into a consulting contract with Dr. Bennett in the interim period prior to his start date as President.

On motion by Trustee Perry, seconded by Trustee Rouse, with Trustees Parker and Robinson absent and not voting and with Trustees Cummins, Hooper, Owens, and Patterson participating by phone, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to return to Open Session.
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
February 7, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Trustee Hooper, seconded by Trustee Pickering, with Trustees Parker and Robinson absent and not voting and with Trustees Cummins, Hooper, Owens, and Patterson participating by phone, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

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OH. E. Skillen

President, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning

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James B. Bounds

Commissioner, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning