

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
September 21 - 22, 2023**

BE IT REMEMBERED, That the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning of the State of Mississippi met in a regular session at the Ballroom in the White House Hotel in Biloxi, Mississippi, at 9:00 a.m., and pursuant to notice in writing mailed by certified letter with return receipt requested on November 22, 2022, to each and every member of said Board said date being at least five days prior to this September 21-22, 2023 meeting. At the above-named place, the following members were present to wit: Dr. Ormella Cummings, Dr. Steven Cunningham (via Zoom), Mr. Tom Duff, Ms. Teresa Hubbard, Ms. Jeanne Carter Luckey (via Zoom), Mr. Bruce Martin (via Zoom), Dr. Alfred E. McNair, Jr., Mr. Chip Morgan, Mr. Gee Ogletree, Mr. Hal Parker, Mr. Gregg Rader, and Dr. J. Walt Starr (via Zoom). The meeting was called to order by Dr. Alfred McNair, President, with Trustee Gee Ogletree providing the invocation.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Parker, with Trustee Starr absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on August 17, 2023 and the committee meeting held on August 29, 2023.

CONSENT AGENDAS

On motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, with Trustee Starr absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the following Consent Agendas.

FINANCE

1. **JSU** – Approved the request to enter into a master services agreement with EAB Global, Inc. (EAB) for the Navigate Student Success software. The term of the contract is October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2027. The contract may be extended for 3 additional 1-year terms for a total term of 4-7 years if all renewals are exercised. The total contract cost is \$637,728. A breakdown of costs is included in the *September 21-22, 2023 Board Working File*. Pursuant to Board Policy 707.03 Approval of Prepayment for Goods and Services, the Board approved the request to allow prepayment in accordance with the terms of the agreement. This contract cost includes all optional renewal periods. The agreement will be funded with Title III Funds. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.
2. **USM** – Granted retroactive approval to enter into a license agreement to subscribe to SciFinder™, an extensive database for chemistry, biochemistry, chemical engineering, materials science, nanotechnology, physics, environmental science, and other science and engineering disciplines from Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS). These research-oriented journals and information resources are used by USM faculty, staff, and students for educational and research purposes. The term of this contract will be three (3) years

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beginning September 1, 2023 and ending August 31, 2026. The total contract cost is \$396,380. Pursuant to Board Policy 707.03 Approval of Prepayment for Goods and Services, the Board approved the request to allow prepayment in accordance with the terms of the agreement. This contract will be funded by general funds. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.

LEGAL

3. **JSU** – Approved the request to amend its consulting agreement with Worth Thomas d/b/a W.T. Consultants, LLC, to provide a full scope of legislative liaison services within the State of Mississippi. The parties wish to amend the payment and reporting provisions in paragraphs 4. and 8. of the agreement and other minor typographical edits. The amended language relates to the timing of required reports from the lobbyist, the required content of those reports, and that payment to the lobbyist is conditioned upon providing the required reports and upon providing them on time. All other terms of the agreement remain unchanged with the term of the agreement being one year from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and a contract amount of \$90,000 to be paid in quarterly installments of \$22,500 each. This fee will be paid with self-generated funds of the JSU Development Foundation allocated for JSU Program Support. The Attorney General’s Office has reviewed the agreement and found same to be compliant with applicable law and Board policy.

PERSONNEL REPORT

4. **Employment**

Alcorn State University

Emanuel Barnes; *part-time, rehired retiree*; Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; salary \$70,000 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; effective August 1, 2023

Mississippi Valley State University

Michael Switzer; Vice President for Facilities Management and Capital Projects; salary of \$115,000 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; effective August 14, 2023

5. **Sabbatical**

Jackson State University

- Yongfeng Zhao, Associate Professor of Chemistry; *from* salary \$63,127.83 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$31,563.92 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 9, 2023 to May 6, 2024; professional development

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- Bessie House-Soremekun, Professor of Political Sciences; *from* salary \$99,421.88 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 9, 2023 to December 31, 2023; professional development
- Lommarsh Roopnarine, Professor of History & Philosophy; *from* \$73,947.20 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2024 to May 6, 2024; professional development

REGULAR AGENDAS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Presented by Trustee Hal Parker, Chair

A motion was made by Trustee Parker, seconded by Trustee Ogletree to approve items #1 - #3 as submitted on the Academic Affairs Agenda. In accordance with Board Policy 301.0510 Meeting Rules of Order, subsection C. Quorums, Agenda Rulings of Presiding Officer and Delay, subsection 4. Delay of Board Consideration, Trustee Tom Duff invoked the privilege of delaying consideration of items #1 - #3 on the Academic Affairs Regular Agenda until the next meeting.

1. **SYSTEM** – The Board discussed proposed amendments to Board Policy 201.0507 Campus Locations and Programs, subsection C Establishment of Off-Campus Instructional Programs Authorized; Attendance for first reading.
201.0507 Campus Locations and Programs
C. Establishment of Off-Campus Instructional Programs Authorized; Attendance

The Board may establish off-campus ~~instructional~~ degree-granting academic programs for universities if, in its opinion, such action is in the best interest of quality education for the State of Mississippi and the university system. ~~However, a~~ An existing Board-approved institutional degree-granting academic program may only be offered at any Board-approved off-campus instructional site for that institution after the institution first without obtains additional Board approval to offer the program at a specific institutional off-campus instructional site. Such approval shall only be sought after successful compliance with ~~Even so,~~ the requirements of 201.0507 E. below regarding “Off-Campus Conflicts” ~~shall still apply.~~

Attendance at an off-campus instructional site or through distance learning shall fulfill residency requirements.

2. **SYSTEM** – The Board discussed proposed amendments to Board Policy 501 Academic Programs and Units for first reading.
501 Academic Programs and Units

All new curricula, departments, on-campus and off-campus degree-granting academic programs of study, ~~organized research or services~~ being proposed by any or all of the institutions must be submitted to the Board and must be approved by the Board before being initiated. This provision shall apply regardless of whether or not the curricula, department, degree-granting academic program of study are presently offered at an on-campus or an off-campus instructional site of an institution and being proposed to be offered at another instructional site of that same institution.

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3. **SYSTEM** – The Board discussed proposed amendments to Board Policy 502 New Academic Programs and Units for first reading.

502 New Academic Programs and Units

Requests to establish new on-campus and off-campus degree-granting academic programs, colleges, schools, departments, institutes, and centers will be considered by the Board on a schedule and in accordance with guidelines and procedures to be determined by the Commissioner after consultation with the Institutional Executive Officers. In developing such guidelines and procedures, the Commissioner shall consider: potential harm to existing similar degree-granting academic programs, colleges, schools, departments, institutes, and centers at other state institutions; state, system, and institutional priorities; institutional missions; institutional performance; comparative funding; market demand; and other appropriate criteria.

INFORMATION AGENDAS

Presented by Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr.

LEGAL

1. **SYSTEM** – The Board received a report of the payment of legal fees to outside counsel. (See Exhibit 1.)

ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

2. **SYSTEM** – The following items have been approved by the Commissioner on behalf of the Board and are available for review at the Board Office.
- a. **JSU** – In accordance with Board Policy 701.06 Budget Escalations and Revisions, all revisions to annual budgets that do not increase the total amount of the budgets must be approved by the Commissioner prior to implementation and subsequently reported to the Board. On August 8, 2023, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the revisions for the FY 2023 *Ayers* academic programs after conducting a review of the same. It appears that these revisions are necessary to align 2023 budgets to individual program needs for the year. Per IHL *Ayers* administrative guidelines, the institutions are required to either report these revisions to the IHL Executive Office (i.e. self-approved revisions) or have certain proposed budgetary revisions pre-approved by the IHL Executive Office. The requested revisions do fit under the pre-approval by the IHL Executive Office policy section of the guidelines. The IHL Executive Office financial and academic staff have reviewed and approved these revisions which contain no increases in the total budgets but rather reallocations among individual expense categories. A copy of the documents is on file at the Board Office.
 - b. **MSU** – On August 8, 2023, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr., approved the request to advertise and receive bids for the harvest of timber from Mississippi State University’s John W. Starr Memorial Forest, Oktibbeha County, MS and to award contracts to the highest bidder who satisfies all additional bid requirements. This sale will be a pay-as-cut, sealed bid for felled timber located on approximately 21 acres of land in the University’s John W. Starr Memorial Forest, Oktibbeha County, MS. This sale will be for the cutting and removal of trees felled during the 2023 Mid-South Forestry Equipment show. This sale will remove felled pine sawtimber

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trees in this stand ranging from 16-26 inches DBH. All felled timber must be removed by Saturday, September 30, 2023. The Office of the Attorney General has reviewed the timber sales request and found the same to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service Contracts. In accordance with Board Policy 905 Real Estate Management and Policy 707.01, all timber sales that do not exceed \$500,000 may be approved by the Chair of the Real Estate Committee upon satisfactory legal review and recommendation by the Commissioner. Trustee Chip Morgan, Chair of the Real Estate Committee, approved the timber sales request noted above. A copy of the documents is on file in the IHL Board Office.

- c. **MSU** – In accordance with Board Policy 1107 Enactment of Traffic Rules and Regulations, “the Board hereby delegates to the Commissioner of Higher Education the power to approve and authorize the enactment of such university traffic rules and regulations, which shall include university parking and traffic fines and fees, on behalf of the Board.” On August 11, 2023, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved Mississippi State University’s OP 95.501 Traffic and Parking Rules and Regulations for Academic Year 2023-2024. The IHL Senior Associate Commissioner for Legal Affairs and Risk Management has reviewed and approved the documents.
- d. **MSU** – On August 11, 2023, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the new Lease Agreement between Mississippi State University and EDR College View, MS LLC to lease up to 6 apartment bedrooms to be used as housing for University students who have signed housing agreements with the University. The term of the lease is August 12, 2023 through July 31, 2024 and the annual contract cost will not exceed \$55,000. The University will be billed for each room that is occupied. Three rooms are available at \$710 per month, per room and 3 rooms are available at \$700 per month, per room. While the expected monthly total is \$4,230, this amount will be reduced if any of the rooms are not occupied. The IHL Senior Associate Commissioner for Legal Affairs and Risk Management has reviewed the agreement and found the same to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service Contracts. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- e. **MSU** – On August 28, 2023, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between Mississippi State University and O’Keefe Commercial for space on Lessor’s D’Iberville property in which to operate a Resource and Referral Center under a grant awarded to MSU by the Mississippi Department of Human Services. The initial term of the lease is two years beginning August 15, 2023 through August 14, 2025. Rent for the first year is \$42,120 to be paid in 12 equal monthly installments due on the first day of each month. Rent for the second year is \$30,840 to be paid in 12 equal monthly installments due on the first day of each calendar month. The IHL Senior Associate Commissioner for Legal Affairs and Risk Management has reviewed the agreement and found the same to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service Contracts and Policy 707.03 Approval of Prepayment for Goods or Services. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.

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- f. **MSU** – On August 28, 2023, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between Mississippi State University and Hinds Community College for the Vicksburg Campus Banks Classroom #3 in which to provide space for a Resource and Referral Center operated by the University in accordance with the terms of a grant awarded by the Mississippi Department of Human Services. The term of the lease is 12 months from September 1, 2023 through August 30, 2024, at a cost of \$2,500 per month payable on the first of each month. The IHL Senior Associate Commissioner for Legal Affairs and Risk Management has reviewed the agreement and found the same to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service Contracts and Policy 707.03 Approval of Prepayment for Goods or Services. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- g. **MSU** – On August 28, 2023, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved Lease Amendment #14 between Mississippi State University and MSU Research & Technology Corporation for 3,192.45 square feet of Class A office space at the NASA Stennis Space Center. This modification extends the term of the current agreement by one year beginning October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2024, and increases the monthly rental rate from \$21.05 per square foot or \$5,600.09 per month to \$21.16 per square foot or \$5,629.35 per month (\$67,552.24 annually). All other provisions of the original lease agreement with its previous Modifications #1 through #13 remain unchanged. The IHL Senior Associate Commissioner for Legal Affairs and Risk Management has reviewed the agreement and found the same to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service Contracts. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- h. **MSU** – On August 28, 2023, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between Mississippi State University and MTB Properties for retail storefront space at 114 East Main Street, Starkville, MS, in which to operate the student-run Retail Product Accelerator. The initial term of the lease is 24 months at a cost of \$2,750 per month payable on the first of each month. The IHL Senior Associate Commissioner for Legal Affairs and Risk Management has reviewed the agreement and found the same to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service Contracts and Policy 707.03 Approval of Prepayment for Goods or Services. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- i. **MVSU** – In accordance with Board Policy 701.06 Budget Escalations and Revisions, all revisions to annual budgets which do not increase the total amount of the budgets must be approved by the Commissioner prior to implementation and subsequently reported to the Board. On August 8, 2023, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the revisions for the FY 2023 *Ayers* academic programs after conducting a review of the same. It appears that these revisions are necessary to align 2023 budgets to individual program needs for the year. Per IHL *Ayers* administrative guidelines, the institutions are required to either report these revisions to the IHL Executive Office (i.e. self-approved revisions) or have certain proposed budgetary revisions pre-approved by the IHL Executive Office. The requested revisions do fit under the pre-approval by the IHL Executive Office policy section of the guidelines. The IHL Executive Office financial and academic

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staff have reviewed and approved these revisions which contain no increases in the total budgets but rather reallocations among individual expense categories. A copy of the documents is on file at the Board Office.

- j. **MVSU** – On August 11, 2023, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between Mississippi Valley State University and Rashad Spurlock for space within the Jacob Aron Student Center in which to offer licensed beautician/barber services. The term of the lease is 9.5 months beginning August 15, 2023 and ending May 31, 2024. Rent is \$150 per month due on or before the first day of each month. The IHL Senior Associate Commissioner for Legal Affairs and Risk Management has reviewed the agreement and found the same to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service Contracts. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- k. **USM** – In accordance with Board Policy 701.06 Budget Escalations and Revisions, all revisions to annual budgets which do not increase the total amount of the budgets must be approved by the Commissioner prior to implementation and subsequently reported to the Board. On August 18, 2023, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the revisions the On Campus (Hattiesburg) Budget, the Off Campus (Gulf Park) Budget, the Children’s Center for Communication and Development Budget, the Dubard School Budget, the Auxiliary Enterprises Budget, the Stennis Center for Higher Learning Budget, the Mississippi Polymer Institute Budget, and the Gulf Coast Research Lab Budget for Fiscal Year 2023. The IHL Executive Office finance staff have reviewed and approved these revisions. These budget revisions contain no increases in the total budgets but rather reallocations among individual expense categories. A copy of the documents is on file at the Board Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President McNair announced the next Board meeting will be October 19, 2023 in Jackson.

PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation from Dr. Jay A. Perman, Chancellor of the University System of Maryland.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Trustee Ogletree, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an Executive Session. On motion by Trustee Rader, seconded by Trustee Cummings, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously **to enter Executive Session** for the reasons reported to the public and stated in these minutes, as follows:

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Discussion of a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at the IHL Board Office.

Discussion of a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at Alcorn State University.

Discussion of a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at Delta State University.

Discussion of a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at Jackson State University.

Discussion of a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at Mississippi State University.

Discussion of a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at Mississippi University for Women.

Discussion of a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at Mississippi Valley State University.

Discussion of a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at the University of Mississippi.

Discussion of a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at the University of Southern Mississippi.

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

The Board discussed a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at the IHL Board Office. On motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Rader, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to give Dr. Alfred Rankins, Jr., Commissioner of Higher Education, a new four-year employment contract with a start date of October 1, 2023 and a 5% increase in annual state salary.

The Board discussed a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at Alcorn State University. **No action was taken.**

The Board discussed a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at Delta State University. **No action was taken.**

The Board discussed a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at Jackson State University. **No action was taken.**

The Board discussed a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at Mississippi State University. **No action was taken.**

The Board discussed a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at Mississippi University for Women. **No action was taken.**

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The Board discussed a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at Mississippi Valley State University. **No action was taken.**

The Board discussed a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at the University of Mississippi. **No action was taken.**

The Board discussed a personnel matter related to the job performance of a person holding a specific position at the University of Southern Mississippi. **No action was taken.**

On motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Parker, with Trustee Cunningham absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to return to Open Session.

PRESENTATIONS

The Board received reports from each institutional executive officer of the eight public universities.

On motion by Trustee Ogletree, seconded by Trustee Cummings, with Trustee Martin absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to recess the meeting until 9:00 a.m. on September 22, 2023.

The meeting reconvened at approximately 9:00 a.m., on September 22, 2023. The following members were present to wit: Dr. Ormella Cummings, Dr. Steven Cunningham (via Zoom), Mr. Tom Duff, Ms. Teresa Hubbard, Mr. Bruce Martin (via Zoom), Dr. Alfred E. McNair, Jr., Mr. Chip Morgan, Mr. Gee Ogletree, Mr. Hal Parker, Mr. Gregg Rader, and Dr. J. Walt Starr (via Zoom). Ms. Jeanne Carter Luckey was absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Trustee Ogletree, seconded by Trustee Cummings, with Trustees Luckey and Martin absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an Executive Session. On motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Ogletree, with Trustees Luckey and Martin absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously **to enter Executive Session** for the reasons reported to the public and stated in these minutes, as follows:

Discussion of a personnel matter related to the employment of a person in a specific position at Alcorn State University.

Discussion of a personnel matter related to the employment of a person in a specific position at Jackson State University.

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During the Executive Session, the following matters were discussed:

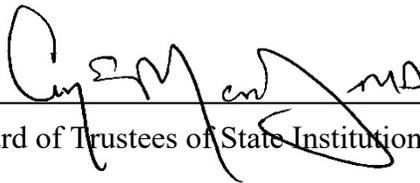
The Board discussed a personnel matter related to the employment of a person in a specific position at Alcorn State University. **No action was taken.**

The Board discussed a personnel matter related to the employment of a person in a specific position at Jackson State University. **No action was taken.**

On motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Parker, with Trustee Luckey absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to return to Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Cummings, with Trustee Luckey absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.



President, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning



Commissioner, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 Report of the payment of legal fees to outside counsel.

EXHIBIT 1

September 21, 2023

1. SYSTEM - REPORT OF PAYMENTS TO OUTSIDE COUNSEL

Legal fees approved for payment to outside counsel in relation to litigation and other matters:

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statements dated 12/11/20, 1/1/23, 1/1/23, 7/1/23, 8/1/23 and 8/1/23) from the funds of Alcorn State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$919.65, \$41.27, \$3,000.00, \$59.79, \$563.00 and \$41.75, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with an immigration/labor certification matter.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 4,625.46

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Brunini, PLLC (statements dated 7/19/23 and 8/18/23) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$1,137.50 and \$6,287.50, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 7,425.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush (statements dated 8/16/23 and 8/16/23) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$483.00 and \$4,719.00, represent services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 5,202.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statements dated 8/1/23 and 8/14/23) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$527.00 and \$549.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,076.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Brunini (statement dated 8/14/23) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$525.00, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 525.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statement dated 8/22/23) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$1,088.00, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,088.00

EXHIBIT 1

September 21, 2023

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Lightfoot Franklin White LLC (statement dated 8/8/23) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$11,321.55, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 11,321.55

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Nelson Mullins (statements dated 7/31/23 and 8/23/23) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$1,764.00 and \$1,378.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 3,142.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statements dated 8/1/23, 8/1/23, 8/1/23, 8/1/23, 8/1/23 and 8/1/23) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$367.50, \$60.22, \$560.52, \$2,500.00, \$525.00 and \$541.00, represent services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 4,554.24

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 7/26/23, 7/28/23 and 8/16/23) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$1,546.00, \$147.50 and \$3,242.50, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 4,936.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by McDonald Hopkins, LLC (statement dated 8/31/23) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$582.00, represents services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 582.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statements dated 7/26/23, 8/1/23, 8/1/23, 8/1/23, 8/1/23, 8/1/23, 8/1/23, 8/1/23, 8/1/23, 9/1/23, 9/1/23, 9/1/23, 9/1/23, 9/1/23 and 9/1/23) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$200.00, \$34.83, \$59.48, \$67.82, \$2,350.00, \$215.81, \$65.29, \$67.82, \$2,500.00, \$38.90, \$77.07, \$38.66, \$41.45, \$57.01 and \$35.74, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 5,849.88

EXHIBIT 1

September 21, 2023

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Zachary & Leggett, PLLC (statement dated 8/1/23) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$529.80, represents services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 529.80

Legal fees approved for payment to outside counsel in relation to patent and other intellectual property matters:

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 7/31/23, 7/31/23, 7/31/23, 7/31/23 and 7/31/23) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements represent services and expenses in connection with the following patents or intellectual property matters: “IP and Regulatory Matters” - \$619.50; “IP and Regulatory Matters” - \$4,543.00; “Recombinant Fimbrial Protein of Aeromonas Hydrophila as Vaccine in Catfish” - \$81.00; “Hemagglutinin Substitution Increases Thermostability and Improves Yields of H1N1 Influenza A Virus in Cells” - \$2,895.50; and “Hemagglutinin Substitution Increases Thermostability and Improves Yields of H1N1 Influenza A Virus in Cells” - \$418.50.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 8,557.50

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Conley Rose (statements dated 8/4/23 and 8/4/23) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements represent services and expenses in connection with the following patents or intellectual property matters: “Multimodal Cardiorespiratory” - \$1,120.00; and “Vision-Based Seismocardiography” - \$1,060.00.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 2,180.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mendelsohn Dunleavy, P.C. (statements dated 7/7/23, 8/8/23, 8/8/23, 8/8/23, 8/8/23, 8/8/23, 8/8/23, 8/8/23 and 8/21/23) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements represent services and expenses in connection with the following patents or intellectual property matters: “Engineering of the Production of a Conformational Variant of Occidiofungin that has Enhanced Inhibitory Activity Against Fungal Species” - \$355.50; “Engineering of the Production of a Conformational Variant of Occidiofungin that has Enhanced Inhibitory Activity Against Fungal Species” - \$624.10; “Drugs Conjugated with Hexose Phosphate and Methods of Making and Using Same” - \$3,285.00; “Drugs Conjugated with Hexose Phosphate and Methods of Making and Using Same” - \$908.50; “Drugs Conjugated with Hexose Phosphate and Methods of Making and Using Same” - \$185.99; “Vaccine Composition Comprising Recombinant Protein of Staphylococcus Aureus Attenuated Enterotoxin and Cytotoxin” - \$2,613.00; “US Provisional Application Nos. 63/028,130, 96/175,642 and PCT/US21/32963” - \$1,420.22; “Oleaginous Microbe Supplementation for Improving Black Soldier Fly Growth and Development” - \$7,307.50; and

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“Vaccine Composition Comprising Recombinant Protein of Staphylococcus Aureus Attenuated Enterotoxin and Cytotoxin” - \$300.00, respectively.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 16,999.81

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Stites & Harbison (statements dated 4/28/23, 4/28/23, 4/28/23, 4/28/23, 8/28/23, 8/28/23, 8/28/23, 8/28/23, 8/28/23, 8/28/23 and 8/28/23) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements represent services and expenses in connection with the following patents or intellectual property matters: “Unsymmetrical CCC-HNC Pincer” - \$180.00; “Cottonseed Oil Polymer” - \$1,991.50; “Synthesis of Optically Active” - \$542.00; “Polymers and Co-Polymers” - \$218.50; “Unsymmetric CCC-HNC Pincer” - \$398.00; “Synthesis of Optically Active” - \$398.00; “Use of Liquid Smoke in Conjunction” - \$155.50; “Novel Catalysis and Process for Liquid Hydrocarbon Fuel Production” - \$146.00; “Novel Catalysis and Process” - \$110.00; “Coal Char-Production and Properties” - \$1,455.50; and “Polymers and Co-Polymers for Polymer Matrix Composites and High Yield Carbon-Carbon Composite Structures Therefrom” - \$1,496.00, respectively.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 7,091.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 7/17/23, 7/31/23, 7/31/23, 7/31/23, 7/31/23, 7/31/23, 7/31/23, 7/31/23, 8/23/23, 8/23/23, 8/23/23 and 8/23/23) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements represent services and expenses in connection with the following patents or intellectual property matters: “General Patent Matters” - \$6,000.00; “Covestro Patents” - \$8,067.50; “Chevron Oronite Patent Maintenance” - \$2,377.25; “Phenylphosphine Oxide Epoxy Polymer and Atomic Oxygen Stable Epoxy Polymer” - \$2,289.50; “Gulf Blue Trademark” - \$1,883.00; “Chevron Oronite Patent Maintenance” - \$140.00; “Lidar for Underwater” - \$135.00; “Methodology for Instrumentation for Thin Film Mechanical Analysis” - \$233.50; “Phenylphosphine Oxide Epoxy Polymer and Atomic Oxygen Stable Epoxy Polymer” - \$1,820.00; “Methodology and Instrumentation for Thin Film Mechanical Analysis” - \$177.00; “An Automated Mechanism for Position Aquaculture Equipment” - \$177.00; and “Lidar for Underwater” - \$59.00.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 23,358.75

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mendelsohn Dunleavy, P.C. (statements dates 7/7/23, 7/7/23, 8/15/23, 8/15/23, 8/15/23 and 8/15/23) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements represent services and expenses in connection with the following patents or intellectual property matters: “Carbon Susceptors for Thermoplastic Composite Induction Welding” - \$810.50; “Processing for Increasing Beta Phase in PVDF Blends” - \$316.00; “Organic Photodetection Devices Utilizing an Insulative Component Within the Active Layer Blend” - \$3,800.00; “Conjugated Polymer Sensors Using the Inner Filter Effect” - \$87.50; “Open-Shell Conjugated Polymer Conductors, Composites and Compositions” - \$377.50; and “General IP Matters” - \$315.00, respectively.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 5,706.50