

# Board Book

April 17, 2025

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE  
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

# Board Meeting Outline

MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

## MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Academic Affairs Committee | April 16, 2025, 2:00p | IHL Board Room  
Finance Committee | April 16, 2025 immediately following  
the Academic Affairs Committee | IHL Board Room  
**IHL Board Meeting** | April 17, 2025, 9:00a | IHL Board Room

## CALL TO ORDER INVOCATION

Trustee Bruce Martin  
Trustee Jimmy Heidelberg

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING  
March 20, 2025**

**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 Board Office in Jackson, Mississippi, at 9:00 a.m., and pursuant to notice in writing mailed by certified letter with return receipt requested on December 2, 2024, to each and every member of said Board said date being at least five days prior to this March 20, 2025 meeting. At the above-named place the following members were present to wit: Ms. Amy Arrington, Mr. Don Clark, Jr., Dr. Ormella Cummings, Dr. Steven Cunningham, Mr. Jerry L. Griffith, Mr. Jimmy Heidelberg, Ms. Teresa Hubbard, Mr. Gee Ogletree, Mr. Gregg Rader, and Mr. Charlie Stephenson. Mr. Bruce Martin and Mr. Hal Parker were absent. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gee Ogletree, Vice President. Trustee Cunningham introduced Pastor Brian Hinnant, Lead Pastor of Asbury Church in Petal, MS, who provided the invocation.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Vice President Ogletree welcomed the following Student Government Association members: President Kristian Bryant from Alcorn State University; President Caleab Pickens from Jackson State University; President Carson McFatridge from Mississippi State University; President JaMya Peoples from the Mississippi Valley State University; President Hannah Watts from the University of Mississippi; Interim Chief of Staff Luke Habeeb from the University of Mississippi; President Morgan Shock from the University of Mississippi Medical Center; and President Braxton Ruddock from the University of Southern Mississippi.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Trustee Rader, seconded by Trustee Cunningham, with Trustees Arrington, Martin, and Parker absent and not voting and with Trustee Heidelberg participating via Zoom, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on February 20, 2025.

**CONSENT AGENDAS**

On motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Clark, with Trustees Arrington, Martin, and Parker absent and not voting and with Trustee Heidelberg participating via Zoom, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the following Consent Agendas.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

1. **MSU** – Approved the modification of an existing center as follows.

Rename

Current title: Holmes Cultural Diversity Center

Proposed title: Holmes Center for Student Success

Unit location: Division of Access, Opportunity, and Success

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Organizational units that operate under modified unit:

- Promise Program
- Trio Student Support Program
- Thrive Scholars Program

Effective date: February 2025

**FINANCE**

2. **ASU** – Approved the request to enter a one-year extension to the current contract with GuideSoft, Inc. d/b/a Knowledge Services to maintain a comprehensive managed service to address our security posture to augment our existing IT resources. The term of the contract is October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025. A payment of \$ 129,574 will be issued upon receipt of invoices for payment of managed services based on the deliverables noted in the statement of work. The contract will be funded by Department of Education Title 3 funded grant. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.
3. **MVSU** – Approved the request to escalate the Education and General Support budget for Fiscal Year 2025 for the purpose of entering a contract with a search firm for the Athletic Director’s position.

Major Object Category	Current Budget	Revision	Revised Budget
Salaries, Wages, and Fringe			
Benefits	\$ 25,161,789		\$ 25,161,789
Travel	1,164,035	\$ 50,000	1,214,035
Contractual Services	11,455,533	20,000	11,475,533
Commodities	1,036,666		1,036,666
Capital Outlay	1,610,411		1,610,411
Transfers	495,291		495,291
<b>Total Uses of Funding</b>	<b>\$ 40,923,725</b>	<b>\$ 70,000</b>	<b>\$ 40,993,725</b>

4. **UMMC** – Approved the request for additional funding for the current Pricing Agreement with BioFire Diagnostics, LLC (BioFire). The agreement is for the purchase of reagent kits for the Film Array Analyzers in the Bacteriology/Microbiology Laboratory. The reagent kits are used to assist the clinician in diagnosis of respiratory infections, bloodstream infections, meningitis, encephalitis, and gastroenteritis. The term of the agreement remains unchanged, it is five (5) years, from February 1, 2021, through January 31, 2026. The new estimated total cost over the five (5) year term is \$5,250,000.00. The original estimated cost was \$3,775,000.00. UMMC anticipates the need for an additional \$1,475,000.00 for the remainder of the term. The agreement is funded by hospital patient revenue. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.
5. **UMMC** – Approved the request to enter a Locally Negotiated Agreement with Covidien Sales LLC, a Medtronic company (Covidien) to purchase electrosurgery, vessel sealing, smoke evacuation, ultrasonic cutting, and hardware products. These devices include basic and advanced hardware and associated products used primarily in the operating room to

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control bleeding, sealing, and cutting blood vessels during minor to extensive procedures. The Board also approved the request to allow the institution to add and remove products and locations from the agreement as needed, including by amendment, as long as it does not increase the approved expenditure level. The term of the agreement is three (3) years, from April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2028. The total estimated cost of the agreement over the three (3) year term is \$5,600,000. Beginning in year two, UMMC has included a 20% increase in volume growth. The contract will be funded through hospital patient revenue. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.

6. **UMMC** – Approved the request to extend the Fixed Periodic Payment Schedule 011 (GI Lease) with Olympus America, Inc. (Olympus) for the lease of endoscopes, bronchoscopes, monitors, workstations, and accessories for gastric and pulmonary diagnostic procedures. The scopes are used for the diagnosis of digestive and broncho-pulmonary disorders. The Board also approved the request to allow the institution to add and/or remove individual scopes and other equipment without prior Board approval, so long as adequate funds are available. The term of the Master Lease Agreement remains unchanged, it is five (5) years beginning February 22, 2022, through February 20, 2027, or the expiration of all lease schedules, whichever occurs last. The amended term of the GI Lease is three (3) years and nine (9) months. The original term began on February 22, 2022, the date of signature, and had a term of three (3) years from the contract start date of April 1, 2022. The amendment adds nine (9) months to the term. The total estimated cost over the three (3) year and nine (9) month term is \$1,469,000. The original approved amount for the GI Lease over the three (3) year term was \$1,245,000. The Board granted an additional \$224,000 for the GI Lease over the term. This agreement will be funded by hospital patient revenue. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.
7. **UMMC** – Approved the request to extend the Fixed Periodic Payment Schedule 010 (OR Lease) with Olympus America, Inc. (Olympus) for the lease of products such as endoscopes, bronchoscopes, colonoscopes, monitors, workstations, and accessories for the equipment for gastric and pulmonary procedures. The scopes are used to provide the visual field for surgical procedures on adult patients with variable gastric and pulmonary diseases. The Board also approved the request to allow the institution to add and/or remove individual scopes and other equipment without prior Board approval, so long as adequate funds are available. The term of the Master Lease Agreement remains unchanged, it is five (5) years beginning February 22, 2022, through February 20, 2027, or the expiration of all lease schedules, whichever occurs last. The amended term is three (3) years and nine (9) months. The original term began on February 22, 2022, the date of signature, and had a term of three (3) years. The amendment adds nine (9) months to the term of the lease. The total estimated cost of the OR Lease agreement over the three (3) year and nine (9) month term is \$1,500,000. The original approved amount for the OR Lease was \$1,236,000. The Board granted an additional \$264,000 for the OR Lease over the term. This agreement will be funded by hospital patient revenue. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.



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8. **UMMC** – Approved the request to enter a new Product Pricing Agreement with Stryker Sales, LLC (Stryker) for the purchase and consignment of craniomaxillofacial, collectively neurosurgical (cranial) and maxillofacial (midface and mandible), implants, instrumentation, and supplies used in trauma and elective surgical procedures for adult and pediatric patients. The Board also approved the request for the institution to add or remove products or locations under the agreement, including by amendment, without seeking prior Board approval as long as adequate funds are available. The term of this Agreement is three (3) years, from April 1, 2025, through March 31, 2028. The total estimated cost of the agreement over the three (3) year term is \$6,500,000. UMMC has included sufficient funds for an expected twenty percent (20%) annual volume increase. This agreement is funded by hospital patient revenue. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.
9. **UMMC** – Approved the request to enter a purchase agreement comprised of Quotation Number 2024-459984-4 and Terms and Conditions of Sale with Varian Medical Systems, Inc. to purchase a new Edge Base System HD120 MLC, including associated installation, testing, training, and warranty. The new linear accelerator will replace a UMMC owned linear accelerator. The linear accelerator provides radiation therapy with 3D image guidance to help clinicians visualize tumor targets and normal tissue both before and during treatment fractions. The term of the agreement is approximately one (1) years and nine (9) months, from April 1, 2025, through one year from installation which is expected to be on or about January 1, 2026, for an expected termination date of December 31, 2026. UMMC expects the linear accelerator to be delivered on or about November 24, 2025 and installed on or about January 1, 2026. The equipment purchase includes a one (1) year warranty that will begin upon installation of the equipment. Upon expiration of the one (1) year warranty, UMMC and Varian will enter into a separate package agreement for service and support. The total estimated cost of the agreement over the one (1) year and nine (9) month term is \$3,996,909. Pursuant to IHL Board Policy 707.03 Approval of Prepayment for Goods or Services, the Board approved the request to allow prepayment of eighty percent (80%) of the purchase price upon shipment of the equipment. The contract will be funded by hospital patient revenue. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.
10. **UMMC** – Approved the request to amend its Master Software and Services Agreement with Solventum Health Information Systems, Inc. (Solventum) to revise the Annuity Products Schedule for the 360 Encompass products under the agreement. The agreement provides products that assist with the scanning of charts, coding of patient interactions, as well as a speech and artificial intelligence solution that allows providers to create, review, edit and sign clinical notes directly in Epic, UMMC’s Electronic Health Record. The Board also approved the request to allow the institution to add or remove products and locations under the Master Software and Services Agreement without requiring prior submission for Board approval, so long as it does not exceed the approved expenditure level. The term of the amended agreement is July 22, 2022 through December 31, 2028. The original term of the contract was July 22, 2022 through June 30, 2025. However, the

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360 Encompass System and the Coding and Reimbursement System and the Medical Necessity and Core Grouping Software Access will expire on June 30, 2025. The total estimated cost of the amended agreement over the six (6) year and six (6) month term will remain \$4,200,000. The agreement will be funded by hospital patient revenue. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.

**REAL ESTATE**

11. **DSU** – Approved the initiation of GS 102-241, Statesmen Boulevard Phase II, and the appointment of Eley McPherson Engineering, P.A., as the design professional. The project extends Statesmen Boulevard and the accompanying sidewalk to provide a contiguous roadway that will connect the University’s athletic facilities located north of Highway 8. This project also provides better ingress and egress for athletic events by bypassing the adjacent housing subdivision. The proposed project budget is \$3,289,807.33. Funds are available from \$2,000,000 of Federal Earmark money and \$633,000 of Federal funding distributed by the Mississippi Department of Transportation. The remainder of the funding will come from Delta State University internal funds.
12. **MUW** – Approved the initiation of IHL 204-138, University Apartment Renovations, and the appointment of Shafer Zahner Zahner, PLLC as the design professional. The project will renovate Building 2 of the University Apartments and will include the interior elements and major renovations of the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and life safety systems. The proposed project budget is \$200,000. Funds are available from Auxiliary Funds (\$200,000).
13. **MUW** – Approved the request to increase the project budget for the GS 104-215, Jones Hall Renovation, from \$9,578,925 to \$10,078,925 for an increase of \$500,000 and to add Auxiliary Funds as a funding source for the budget increase. The project will include asbestos abatement, restoration of interior and exterior elements, interior reconfiguration, ADA improvements and major renovations of the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and life safety systems. Due to the building’s Mississippi Landmark status, coordination with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will be required. Funds are available from SB 2971, Laws of 2021 (\$1,616,472); HB 603, Laws of 2023 (\$7,212,500); HB 1649, Laws of 2018 (\$60,585.40); SB 2906, Laws of 2015 (\$6,687.78); HB 1729, Laws of 2016 (\$3,617.14); HB 3006, Laws of 2024 (\$483,062.68); MUW Funds (\$196,000); and Auxiliary Funds (\$500,000).
14. **UM** – Approved the request to modify the project scope of IHL 207-472, Vaught Hemingway Stadium West Side Additions & Renovations, to include a reduction in project requirements. The project will no longer demolish a portion of the existing west side grandstand and press box structure to construct new spaces. Based on a recent feasibility study, the programmatic need for a new Suite concept may be met with a single-story addition to the west side structure. The project budget is \$1.5 million. Funds are available from UM Athletics / Ole Miss Athletics Foundation (\$1,500,000).
15. **MSU** – Approved the request to purchase a 28,249 square foot tract of land located adjacent to the Mill at MSU in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi from Russell Street Development, LLC and 550 Russell, LLC for future development. The University received two

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independent appraisals of the property. The first appraisal was \$890,000 and the second was \$915,000 for an average of \$902,500. The purchase price is \$451,296, which is below the average of the two appraisals. The property is a tract of land containing 0.54 acres of land in Section 2, Township 18 North, Range 14 East of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. MSU is purchasing this property for \$451,296. Currently, this land is recorded as Lot 3 and a portion of the land is currently incorporated into Lot 3-A. MSU will pay to subdivide Lot 3-A and file an amended plat to incorporate the Lot 3-B Easement Area into Lot 3. The closing will take place on or before March 30, 2025. MSU will provide the seller with an executed written acknowledgment of a bargain sale, and MSU will provide the seller with an easement across Lot 3-B. MSU may terminate if the property is damaged before closing, or if MSU cannot obtain and receive title insurance, an acceptable Phase I, or IHL Board approval. Either party may terminate if the MSU Foundation and Seller cannot resolve all outstanding issues related to the adjacent parking lot or upon breach of contract. Seller may terminate if MSU does not provide an acceptable easement to the Lot 3-B Easement Area. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was conducted on the property. No recognized environmental conditions were identified in connection with the site. No additional investigation is warranted currently. Legal Staff has reviewed this item for compliance with applicable law and found it to be acceptable.

16. **MSU** – Approved the request to grant a permanent and perpetual easement to Lot 3-B in conjunction with the purchase of the land located adjacent to the Mill at MSU in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. The easement will be granted to Russell Street Development, LLC and 550 Russell, LLC for ingress and egress as part of the purchase of Lot 3 and Lot 3-B. allowing access to the adjacent parking lot. Legal Staff has reviewed this item for compliance with applicable law and found it to be acceptable.
17. **MSU** – Approved the request to demolish and delete from inventory Building #1442 Plot Research Building which was damaged during a tornado on January 5, 2025. The building is no longer structurally sound and needs to be demolished. The letter of approval has been received from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History stating Building #1442 is not eligible for designation as a Mississippi Landmark. All legal documentation will be on file in the IHL Office of Real Estate and Facilities.
18. **MSU** – Approved the request to enter a Services Agreement with Cenergistic, LLC for energy conservation services in facilities on the MSU campus. The term of the agreement is five years. The total contract cost is \$9,517,000 and is budget neutral. Cenergistic’s program is 100% funded through energy savings via a fixed monthly fee of \$166,965. The first 3 months of the program are fee-free. Cenergistic will refund any difference between the monthly fee and the total savings experienced by MSU. A breakdown of projected savings for the next 5 years is included in the bound *March 20, 2025 Board Working File*. The contract will be funded by MSU general funds. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.
19. **UM** – Approved the exterior design of IHL 207-472, Vaught Hemingway Stadium West Side Additions & Renovations project. The project scope includes an approximately 18,300 square foot addition of a floor to the existing Press Box for Founder's Suites, restrooms, and support spaces. The project budget for design fees only is \$1.5 million.

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Funds are available from UM Athletics / Ole Miss Athletics Foundation. A copy of the rendering is included in the bound *March 20, 2025 Board Working File*.

20. **UMMC** – Approved the request to enter a Lease Agreement with LKG Properties, LLC for property located at 2601 North State Street, Jackson, MS to be utilized as a restaurant and retail establishment. The term of this agreement is ten (10) years, from June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2035, and will provide \$720,000 of revenue over the term. LKG will pay a monthly base rent in the amount of \$6,000. This is a revenue generating lease. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.

**LEGAL**

21. **MUW** – Approved an affiliation agreement between the University and the Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association. The term of the agreement is five years effective April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2030. The affiliation agreement meets the requirements of Board Policy 301.0806 University Foundation/Affiliated Entity Activities. The Attorney General’s Office has reviewed the agreement and found it to be in compliance with applicable law and IHL Board of Trustees Policies and Bylaws.
22. **MUW** – Approved an affiliation agreement between the University and the Mississippi University for Women Foundation. The term of the agreement is five years effective April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2030. The affiliation agreement meets the requirements of Board Policy 301.0806 University Foundation/Affiliated Entity Activities. The Attorney General’s Office has reviewed the agreement and found it to be in compliance with applicable law and IHL Board of Trustees Policies and Bylaws.
23. **UM** – Approved an amended and restated affiliation agreement between the University and the University of Mississippi Research Foundation. The term of the agreement is five years effective April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2030. The affiliation agreement meets the requirements of Board Policy 301.0806 University Foundation/Affiliated Entity Activities. The Attorney General’s Office has reviewed the agreement and found it to be in compliance with applicable law and IHL Board of Trustees Policies and Bylaws.
24. **UMMC** – Approved an affiliation agreement between the University and the University of Mississippi Medical Center Research Development Foundation. The term of the agreement is five years effective April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2030. The affiliation agreement meets the requirements of Board Policy 301.0806 University Foundation/Affiliated Entity Activities. The Attorney General’s Office has reviewed the agreement and found it to be in compliance with applicable law and IHL Board of Trustees Policies and Bylaws.
25. **USM** – Approved the request to hire the law firm of Gian Franco Borio of Florence, Italy, as outside counsel to perform services necessary in registration with the Italian Ministry of Education to allow the University to conduct educational programs throughout Italy. The term of the agreement is one-year effective March 21, 2025 through March 20, 2026. The firm will be paid a flat rate of \$10,000 for these services in addition to reimbursement for all expenses not to exceed the total amount of \$8,500. The maximum amount payable under the term of the agreement is \$18,500. This firm carries professional liability

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insurance coverage in the amount of €2,000,000 per claim with an annual aggregate of €2,000,000. This request has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General.

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

26. **Employment**

**Mississippi State University**

David M. Ford; Dean and Professor and Endowed Chair of Engineering; salary \$430,000 per annum, pro rata; E & G and Restricted Funds; 12-month contract; effective April 1, 2025

27. **Change of Status**

**Jackson State University**

Alfred C. Duckett; *from tenured* Associate Professor in the Department of Music; salary of \$79,192.80 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; termination effective March 20, 2025

28. **Sabbatical**

**Mississippi State University**

- Edea Baldwin; Associate Professor of General Library; *from* salary of \$63,007.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; *to* salary of \$23,627.63 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Maria Silvina Lopez Barrera; Associate Professor of Architecture; *from* salary of \$80,942.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$40,471.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Diego Thompson Bello; Associate Professor of Sociology; *from* salary of \$84,269.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Designated Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$42,134.50 for sabbatical period; E&G & Designated Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Nathan Berglund; Associate Professor of Accountancy; *from* salary of \$214,865.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G, Designated & Restricted Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$107,432.50 for sabbatical period; E&G, Designated & Restricted Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Joanne Beriswill; Associate Professor of Industrial Technology, Instructional Design & Community College Leadership; *from* salary of \$80,168.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$40,084.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development

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- John Bickle, Jr.; Professor of Philosophy & Religion; *from* salary of \$142,312.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$71,156.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Douglas Brian Blank, II; Associate Professor of Finance & Economics; *from* salary of \$203,878.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Designated Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$101,939.00 for sabbatical period; E&G & Designated Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Dustin C. Brown; Associate Professor of Sociology; *from* salary of \$101,586.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Designated Funds; 12-month contract; *to* salary of \$38,094.75 for sabbatical period; E&G & Designated Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Frank Critz Campbell; Professor of Art; *from* salary of \$153,150.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; *to* salary of \$57,431.25 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Seungdeog Choi; Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering; *from* salary of \$137,679.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$68,839.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Richard V. Damms; Associate Professor of Arts & Sciences-Meridian; *from* salary of \$149,996.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; *to* salary of \$56,248.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Hilary L. DeShong; Associate Professor of Psychology *from* salary of \$88,667.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Designated Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$44,333.50 for sabbatical period; E&G & Designated Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Dipangkar Dutta; Professor of Physics & Astronomy; *from* salary of \$106,300.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Designated Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$53,150.00 for sabbatical period; E&G & Designated Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Melody T. Fisher; Associate Professor of Communication; *from* salary of \$79,559.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Designated Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$39,779.50 for sabbatical period; E&G & Designated Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Ryan A. Folk; Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences; *from* salary of \$79,312.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$39,656.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development

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- Stephen L. France; Associate Professor of Marketing, Quantitative Analysis & Business Law; *from* salary of \$151,707.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Designated Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$75,853.50 for sabbatical period; E&G & Designated Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Alexis D. Gregory; Associate Professor of Architecture; *from* salary of \$82,589.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$41,294.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Stacy H. Haynes; Professor of Sociology; *from* salary of \$110,268.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Designated Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$55,134.00 for sabbatical period; E&G & Designated Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Thedford K. Hollis; Professor of Chemistry; *from* salary of \$113,470.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Designated Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$56,735.00 for sabbatical period; E&G & Designated Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Bryan A. Jones; Associate Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering; *from* salary of \$105,763.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$26,440.75 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Heather R. Jordan; Professor of Biological Sciences; *from* salary of \$97,278.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Designated Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$48,639.00 for sabbatical period; E&G & Designated Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Yun Sang Kim; Associate Professor of Sustainable Bioproducts; *from* salary of \$89,679.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$44,839.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Shawn Lambert; Associate Professor of Anthropology & Middle Eastern Cultures; *from* salary of \$81,000.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$40,500.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Ling Li; Associate Professor of Biological Sciences; *from* salary of \$86,898.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$43,449.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Soyoun Lim; Associate Professor of Kinesiology; *from* salary of \$77,450.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$38,725.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to May 15, 2026; professional development

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- Qingmin Meng; Associate Professor of Geosciences; *from* salary of \$82,752.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$41,376.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Dana J. Morin; Assistant Professor of Wildlife, Fisheries & Aquaculture; *from* salary of \$87,234.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$43,617.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Bindumadhavi B. Nanduri; Professor of Comparative Biomedical Sciences; *from* salary of \$137,989.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$68,994.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Prem B. Parajuli; Professor of Agricultural & Biological Engineering; *from* salary of \$115,301.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$57,650.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Varun G. Paul; Associate Professor of Geosciences; *from* salary of \$78,713.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Designated Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$39,356.50 for sabbatical period; E&G & Designated Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Wendy K. Roussin; Associate Professor of Communication; *from* salary of \$76,636.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$38,318.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Mohammad B. Sepehrifar; Associate Professor of Mathematics & Statistics; *from* salary of \$108,319.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Designated Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$54,159.50 for sabbatical period; E&G & Designated Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development
- Tonya W. Stone; Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering; *from* salary of \$139,903.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Restricted Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$69,951.50 for sabbatical period; E&G & Restricted Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Dhanashree A. Thorat; Assistant Professor of English; *from* salary of \$64,504.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G & Designated Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$32,252.00 for sabbatical period; E&G & Designated Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Dongmao Zhang; Professor of Chemistry; *from* salary of \$108,807.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$54,403.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2025, to December 31, 2025; professional development
- Jilei Zhang; Professor of Sustainable Bioproducts; *from* salary of \$117,041.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; *to* salary of \$43,890.38 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2026, to May 15, 2026; professional development



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**ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

29. **DSU** – Approved the request to bestow two honorary degrees at its May 2025 Commencement ceremony. Supporting documents are on file at the Board Office.
30. **JSU** – Approved the request to bestow one honorary degree at its Spring 2025 Commencement ceremony. Supporting documents are on file at the Board Office.
31. **MSU** – Approved the request to bestow two honorary degrees at its May 2025 Commencement ceremony. Supporting documents are on file at the Board Office.
32. **MSU** – Approved the following revision to the mission statement in accordance with Board Policy 102.03 Institutional Mission Statements and the U.S. Department of Education’s “Dear Colleague Letter” of February 14, 2025, directing educational institutions receiving federal funds to end racial preferences, and following review and approval by the MSU Executive Council.

Mississippi State University is a public research, land-grant university with a mission to provide access and opportunity to all sectors of Mississippi’s diverse population, as well as other states and countries, and to offer excellent programs of teaching, research, and service.

Mississippi State University offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs across many disciplines.

The university embraces its role as a major contributor to the economic development of the state and beyond through targeted research and the transfer of ideas and technology to the public, supported by faculty, staff, student, and alumni relationships with industry, community organizations, and government entities.

Mississippi State University is committed to its tradition of instilling among its community ideals of ~~diversity~~, citizenship, leadership, and service.

Building on its land-grant tradition, Mississippi State University strategically extends its resources and expertise for the benefit of Mississippi's citizens, the nation, and the world by offering access for working and place-bound learners through its on- and off-campus education and research sites, Extension, and distance education programs.

**REGULAR AGENDAS**

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Presented by Trustee Teresa Hubbard, Chair

On motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Cummings, with Trustees Arrington, Martin, and Parker absent and not voting and with Trustee Heidelberg participating via Zoom, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #1 as submitted on the Academic Affairs Agenda.

1. **MUW** – Approved the request to add the following academic degree program:  
New program title: Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Elementary Education  
CIP code: 13.1202  
Total credit hours: 33  
Effective date: August 2025

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**FINANCE AGENDA**

Presented by Trustee Hal Parker, Chair

Trustee Ogletree recused himself from discussing or voting on item #1 on the Finance Agenda by leaving the room before there was any discussion or vote regarding the same. With Trustee Ogletree out of the room, on motion by Trustee Cunningham, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, with Trustees Arrington, Martin, Ogletree, and Parker absent and not voting and with Trustee Heidelberg participating via Zoom, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #1 as submitted on the Finance Agenda. Trustee Ogletree returned to the room following the discussion and vote on item #1.

1. **UM** – Approved the request for the University’s Department of Athletics to enter a contract with the Boston Culinary Group, Inc. d/b/a Sodexo Live! to operate concession venues at UM’s athletic facilities. This Agreement allows Sodexo Live! to exclusively operate concessions in UM’s athletic facilities. Sodexo Live! will also invest funds to UM for improvements and upgrades to UM’s athletic concession areas. The Agreement shall take effect when fully executed by UM and Sodexo Live! and terminate June 30, 2035. The contractor will pay UM Department of Athletics a percentage based on the adjusted gross receipts from the sale of concessions at UM’s athletic facilities. The contractor is also investing \$3,325,000 for improvements which will be amortized over the contract term. The contract will be funded by Concession Sales. 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. **Other Business** – The Board received a summary of the discussions during the Finance Committee meeting yesterday including the presentation by Forvis Mazars Group on the FY2024 financial audit and FY 2024 federal audit.

**REAL ESTATE AGENDA**

Presented by Trustee Gregg Rader, Chair

Trustees Clark and Ogletree recused themselves from discussing or voting on item #1 on the Real Estate Agenda by leaving the room before there was any discussion or vote regarding the same. With Trustees Clark and Ogletree out of the room, on motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Cunningham, with Trustees Clark, Martin, Ogletree, and Parker absent and not voting and with Trustees Arrington and Heidelberg participating via Zoom, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #1 as submitted on the Real Estate Agenda. Trustees Clark and Ogletree returned to the room following the discussion and vote on item #1.

1. **UM** – Approved the request to enter an energy savings performance contract with Trane U.S. Inc. for Phase V which includes several high-priority scope items across the campus that were identified under the investment grade audit. These critical items include chilled water loop corrections & optimization; building automation controls upgrade/replacement in 15 buildings and four mechanical plants; and extensive HVAC upgrades in the Library, Peabody Hall, Fulton Chapel, and Barnard Observatory. The construction period will be

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18 months from the execution date of the contract, with a subsequent guaranteed energy savings performance period of 19 years. The total contract amount is \$11,526,585, which includes \$10,041,407 for construction and \$1,485,178 (spread over 19 years) for annual measurement & verification (M&V) and ongoing energy management support. The following items are also noted: 1) The construction amount includes \$341,153 (3.4%) in contingency, which will revert to UM at the end of the construction period if not used. 2) Upon contract execution, an initial payment in the amount of \$2,053,125 is due to cover applicable engineering, drafting, mobilization, and other preconstruction expenses, to include the full cost of the investment grade audit as well as the required Mississippi Material Purchase Certificate. 3) TVA incentives for this project are expected to total approximately \$500,000, which will be paid directly to the University from TVA upon project completion and will offset the total project cost. 4) The annual M&V and energy management support may be canceled at any time by the University without penalty. The construction portion of the project will be funded using Internal Replacement and Renewal (R&R) funds. The ongoing M&V and energy management support costs will be funded from energy cost savings using internal E&G funds. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.

**INFORMATION AGENDAS**

Presented by Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

1. **MUW** – Intent to offer the following certificate program:  
Certificate program title: TESL Certificate  
Responsible academic unit: Department of Languages, Literature, and Philosophy  
Level: pre-baccalaureate – less than 1 year  
Total credit hours: 12  
CIP code: 13.1401  
Effective date: July 2025

**FINANCE**

2. **UMMC** – On January 8, 2024, the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS), as the contracting agent for UMMC, entered into Change Order 475024 under the current Master Subscription Agreement with Workday, Inc. (Workday). Change Order 475024 is an amendment to extend the term of Order Form 421301 for Delivery Assurance Consulting Fees for an additional twelve months. Under Change Order 475024 Workday will provide the services and technical support as outlined in Order Form 421301. The term of Change Order 475024 to Order Form 421301 is twelve additional months, for the period January 15, 2025 through January 14, 2026. The amended term of Order Form 421301 shall be January 12, 2024 through January 14, 2026. The term of the Master Subscription Agreement will remain unchanged and will expire January 18, 2028. The

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total cost for Change Order 475024 is \$0.00. The total cost of Order Form 421301 is \$4,320.00. The total cost of the Master Subscription shall remain \$27,368,633.60.

**REAL ESTATE**

3. **SYSTEM** – The Board received the Real Estate items that were approved by the Board staff subsequent to the February 20, 2025 Board meeting in accordance with Board Policy 904 Board Approval. (See Exhibit 1.)

**LEGAL**

4. **SYSTEM** – The Board received a report of the payment of legal fees to outside counsel. (See Exhibit 2.)
5. **UMMC** – Pursuant to IHL Policy 1102.04, Trustee Gee Ogletree, as Board Legal Committee Chair, approved, on behalf of the Board, UMMC’s request to hire the firm Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lynman, P.C. as outside counsel to represent UMMC as part of a group of other hospitals in an appeal of a CMS decision regarding reimbursement rates. The term of the agreement began February 20, 2025 and will expire upon resolution of the appeal. Services will be provided at the following hourly rates apportioned among all participating hospitals based upon potential recovery: \$340 to \$860 per hour for attorneys and \$220 to \$280 per hour and lower for paraprofessionals, in addition to expenses. If the appeal is successful, each participating hospital will pay the firm a success fee of 10.0% of net recoveries after fees and costs. The maximum amount payable to the firm is \$750,000, including the success fee. The firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$50 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$50 million. This request has been approved by the Attorney General.

**ADMINISTRATION/POLICY**

6. **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. **ASU** – On February 25, 2025, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Bridge Agreement between Alcorn State University and Ellucian Company, Inc. for Cloud Software Services through Ellucian’s Campus Logic Platform. ASU’s previous agreement expired on August 31, 2024. A Bridge Agreement was approved extending that contract for five months or through January 31, 2025. ASU has submitted a new contract for review and approval at the IHL Board’s March meeting and requests at this time approval of a second Bridge Agreement to extend the term of the existing agreement by two more months or until March 31, 2025 at a cost of \$12,024 which was due February 1, 2025. The IHL Associate Commissioner for Legal Affairs and Risk Management reviewed this item and found it to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service Contracts and Policy 707.03 Approval for Prepayment for Goods or Services. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
  - b. **DSU** – On March 7, 2025, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Permanent Drainage Easement between Delta State University and the City of Cleveland, Mississippi to allow for the perpetual maintenance of a drainage line to

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resolve flooding issues related to Pecan Bayou including the area around a walking trail and intermural field between Bishop Road and Canal Avenue. The easement is being granted to the City of Cleveland for the sum of \$10. The Attorney General's Office reviewed this item and found it to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.

- c. **DSU** – On March 7, 2025, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Donation Temporary Easement between Delta State University and the City of Cleveland, Mississippi for a 1.07 acre parcel on the north right-of-way side of Highway 8 to allow for the extension and repair of an existing sidewalk adjacent to the DSU campus. The easement will terminate upon completion of the construction project. The Attorney General's Office reviewed this item and found it to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- d. **DSU** – On, March 7, 2025, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Temporary Drainage Easement between Delta State University and the City of Cleveland, Mississippi to allow for construction and repair of a drainage line to resolve flooding issues related to Pecan Bayou including three parcels of property between Bishop Road and Canal Street. The easement is being granted to the City of Cleveland for the sum of \$10 and will terminate upon completion of the project. The Attorney General's Office reviewed this item and found it to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- e. **MUW** – On March 3, 2025, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved four Permanent Drainage Easements between the Mississippi University for Women and the City of Columbus, Mississippi to allow for improvements to and perpetual maintenance of a drainage system for stormwater management to resolve flooding issues around the university. This work is part of a citywide initiative known as the Columbus Drainage Improvements. The easements are being granted to the City of Columbus for the sum of \$10 each. The Attorney General's Office reviewed this item and found it to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- f. **MVSU** – On February 21, 2025, 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 3 months from March 1, 2025 through May 31, 2025. This is a revenue generating lease with a \$150 initial non-refundable deposit and monthly rent in the amount of \$150 for the term of the lease for a total of \$600. The Attorney General's Office reviewed this item and found it compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service Contracts. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.

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- g. **UMMC** – On February 25, 2025, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Facilities and Services Agreement between the University of Mississippi Medical Center and Millsaps College for use of the McMullan Lecture Hall and participant housing in New South Hall on the Millsaps Campus for the School of Medicine Summer Program Mosaic. The total cost for the one-week program scheduled to take place from June 15, 2025 to June 21, 2025, is \$18,605 which includes housing for 56 participants and staff, housekeeping, facility and equipment usage and administrative fee. Millsaps requires a 50% deposit in the amount of \$9,302.50 at the time of the reservation. The IHL Associate Commissioner for Legal Affairs and Risk Management reviewed this item and found it to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service Contracts and Policy 707.03 Approval for Prepayment for Goods or Services. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.

**PERSONNEL**

7. **Sabbatical**

**Mississippi State University**

FROM: Li Zhang; Professor of General Library; *from* salary of \$79,208.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; *to* salary of \$29,703.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2025, to May 15, 2025; professional development  
*[Originally approved by IHL Board March 21, 2024]*

CORRECTED: This item was rescinded.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Committee members participated in the meeting in person or via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hal Parker at approximately 2:00 p.m. The following items were discussed.

1. The Committee received a presentation by Forvis Mazars Group, the external auditors, on the FY2024 financial audit and FY 2024 federal audit. **No action was taken.**
2. On motion by Trustee Ogletree, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, with Trustees Cummings and Martin absent and not voting and with Trustees Arrington, Cunningham, Heidelberg, and Stephenson participating via Zoom, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to adjourn.

The following Committee members were present: Mr. Hal Parker (Chair), Ms. Amy Arrington (via Zoom), Mr. Don Clark, Jr., Dr. Steven Cunningham (via Zoom), Mr. Jerry L. Griffith, Mr. Jimmy Heidelberg (via Zoom), Ms. Teresa Hubbard, Mr. Gee Ogletree, Mr. Gregg Rader, and Mr. Charlie Stephenson (via Zoom). Dr. Ormella Cummings and Mr. Bruce Martin were absent.

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**HEALTH AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Wednesday, March 20, 2025

Committee members participated in the meeting in person or via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dr. Steven Cunningham at approximately 3:00 p.m. The following items were discussed.

1. The Committee discussed the monthly financial summary and the construction progress on the Alyce G. Clarke Center for Medically Fragile Children. **No action was taken.**
2. Executive Session

On motion by Trustee Heidelberg, seconded by Trustee Clark, with Trustees Cummings and Martin absent and not voting and with Trustees Arrington, Cunningham, Heidelberg, and Stephenson participating via Zoom, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an Executive Session. Trustee Arrington recused herself from discussing or voting on any items during executive session and was removed from the Zoom meeting room. On motion by Trustee Heidelberg, seconded by Trustee Griffith, with Trustees Arrington, Cummings, and Martin absent and not voting and with Trustees Cunningham, Heidelberg, and Stephenson participating via Zoom, all Committee members 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 four UMMC items involving prospective strategic business decisions of a public hospital including the prospective purchase, sale or leasing of land, the location, relocation or expansion of medical services, and capital improvements.

Discussion of the privileged information regarding potential litigation. The discussion of this information in open session would be detrimental to UMMC's legal position.

**During Executive Session, the following matters were discussed:**

The Committee discussed four items related to the strategic decisions of a public hospital including the prospective purchase, sale or leasing of land, the location, relocation or expansion of medical services, and capital improvements. **No action was taken.**

The Committee discussed privileged information regarding potential litigation. **No action was taken.**

On motion by Trustee Ogletree, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, with Trustees Arrington, Cummings, and Martin absent and not voting and with Trustees Cunningham, Heidelberg, and Stephenson participating via Zoom, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to return to open session.

3. On motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Clark, with Trustees Arrington, Cummings, and Martin absent and not voting and with Trustees Cunningham, Heidelberg, and Stephenson participating via Zoom, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to adjourn.

The following Committee members were present: Dr. Steven Cunningham (Chair) (via Zoom), Ms. Amy Arrington (via Zoom), Mr. Don Clark, Jr., Mr. Jerry L. Griffith, Mr. Jimmy Heidelberg (via Zoom), Ms. Teresa Hubbard, Mr. Gee Ogletree, Mr. Hal Parker, Mr. Gregg Rader, and Mr. Charlie Stephenson (via Zoom). Dr. Ormella Cummings and Mr. Bruce Martin were absent.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

- Vice President Ogletree announced the next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2025 at the Board Office.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Griffith, with Trustees Martin and Parker absent and not voting and with Trustees Arrington and Heidelberg participating via Zoom, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

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President, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning

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Commissioner, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning



**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING  
March 20, 2025**

**EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1      Real Estate items that were approved by the IHL Board staff subsequent to the February 20, 2025 Board meeting.

Exhibit 2      Report of the payment of legal fees to outside counsel.

# EXHIBIT 1

March 20, 2025

## SYSTEM: REAL ESTATE ITEMS APPROVED SUBSEQUENT TO THE FEBRUARY 20, 2025, BOARD MEETING SUBMISSION DEADLINE

**NOTE: THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD'S REAL ESTATE AND FACILITIES STAFF IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD POLICY §904(A) BOARD APPROVAL.:**

**Change Order Approval Note: No change orders approved by Board staff, as reflected within any of the following informational agenda items, increase the Board approved total project budget. The total project budget as approved by the Board provides for a contingency fund, which allows for an increase in the construction budget of between five and ten percent. Any increase in the total project budget caused by a change order, would require Board approval and could not be approved by Board staff until the budget increase is approved by the Board.**

### ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

#### 1. ASU-GS 101-328 – DOMITORY RENOVATIONS – ROBINSON HALL

##### **Approval Request #1: Change Order #4**

Board staff approved Change Order #4 in the amount of \$995,935.00 and two hundred (200) additional days to the contract of Paul Jackson & Son, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 14, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #4 includes the following: completed the new masonry work and replaced existing parapet flashing and two hundred (200) days to the contract.

Change Order Justification: This change order was necessary due to latent job site conditions; and days for work as indicated herein.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Four (4) change orders for a total amount of \$1,019,875.00.

Project Initiation Date: June 15, 2023

Design Professional: Burris/Wagnon Architects, P.A.

General Contractor: Paul Jackson & Son, Inc.

Total Project Budget: \$7,280,000.00

#### 2. ASU-IHL 201-259 – POULTRY PROCESSING & INCINERATOR SHED RENOVATION

##### **Approval Request #1: Change Order #3**

Board staff approved Change Order #3 in the amount of \$8,730.00 and seventy-three (73) additional days to the contract of Barnard and Sons Construction, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 11, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #3 includes the following: removed existing stainless steel sink and replaced with a new 2-compartment stainless sink with a pre-rinse faucet set & associated accessories; removed existing mop sink in janitor's closet and replaced with a new cast iron mop sink with acid-resistant enamel finish & faucet set; replaced the incinerator manufacturer's provided chimney flue section with a custom built

# EXHIBIT 1

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shop fabricated flue which will be bolted to the incinerator's existing flue base plate; and seventy-three (73) days to the contract.

Change Order Justification: This change order was necessary due to changes in requirements or recommendations by government agencies; user/owner requested modification; forty-three (43) weather-related days and thirty (30) days to replace poultry equipment damaged during shipment.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Three (3) change orders for a total amount of \$70,901.00.

Project Initiation Date: May 19, 2022

Design Professional: Vernell Barnes Architects

General Contractor: Barnard and Sons Construction, LLC

Total Project Budget: \$2,031,900.00

## DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

### 3. **DSU-GS 102-258B – WALTER SILLERS PHASE 2**

#### **Approval Request #1: Design Development Documents**

Board staff approved the Design Development Documents as submitted by CDFL Architects + Engineers.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 20, 2025

Project Initiation Date: November 21, 2024

Design Professional: CDFL Architects + Engineers

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$5,344,974.90

### 4. **DSU-GS 102-271 – NURSING SCHOOL EXPANSION AND RENOVATION**

#### **Approval Request #1: Change Order #8**

Board staff approved Change Order #8 in the amount of \$70,952.40 and thirty-five (35) additional days to the contract of Richard Womack Construction.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 26, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #8 includes the following: installed new panels & poles required by electrical engineer; additional gyp board to insure outlets would be flush with the wall in two (2) rooms; added a beam; added ADA threshold due to existing uneven floors; trenching of existing CMU for the junction boxes; floor leveling due to existing conditions; crawlspace access for a room; credit for water repellent removed from the scope; credit for elastomeric coating removed from the scope; added a floor patch due to existing conditions; replaced existing surface-mounted light fixtures with recessed can lights; and thirty-five (35) days to the contract.

Change Order Justification: This change was necessary due to errors and omissions in the plans and specifications; latent job site conditions; user/owner requested modification; and days for work as indicated herein.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Eight (8) change orders for a total amount of \$649,171.46.

Project Initiation Date: February 18, 2021

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Design Professional: Eley, Guild, Hardy.  
General Contractor: Richard Womack Construction  
Total Project Budget: \$12,310,000.00

## JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

### 5. **JSU-GS 103-337 – TRANSITIONAL ROOFING IMPROVEMENTS-EEF**

#### **Approval Request #1: Initiation of Project Under \$3M – Tier 2**

Board staff approved the initiation of the Transitional Roofing Improvements project and the appointment of Vernell Barns Architect as the design professional for the project. As stated in Board policy and effective as of November 2024, project initiations of \$3M and below for Tier 2 schools do not require Board approval. However, these project initiations must be approved by Board staff. All Tier 2 project initiations between \$1M and \$3M that Board staff is authorized to approve on behalf of the Board must be reported back to the Board as an information agenda item each month.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 28, 2025

Project Initiation Date: February 28, 2025

Design Professional: Vernell Barns Architect

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$1,448,278.15

## MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

### 6. **MUW- GS 104-208 – ARPA INFRASTRUCTURE STORMWATER (JOC)**

#### **Approval Request #1: Change Order #1**

Board staff approved Change Order #1 in the amount of \$104,792.00 and twenty (20) additional days to the contract of Brown and Root.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 24, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #1 includes the following: abandon and relocate a 24-inch stormwater drainage system line beneath the Hogarth Student Center; and twenty (20) days to the contract.

Change Order Justification: This change order was necessary due to user/owner requested modifications; and days for work as indicated herein.

#### **Approval Request #2: Change Order #2**

Board staff approved Change Order #2 in the amount of \$20,830.00 and ten (10) additional days to the contract of Brown and Root.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 24, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #2 includes the following: additional clearing, grubbing; removal and replacement of chain link security fence; Limestone placed in the island/planter area in lieu of solid sod; and ten (10) days to the contract.

Change Order Justification: This change order was necessary due to user/owner requested modifications; and days for work as indicated herein.

#### **Approval Request #3: Change Order #3**

# EXHIBIT 1

March 20, 2025

Board staff approved Change Order #3 in the amount of \$34,089.00 and forty (40) additional days to the contract of Brown and Root.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 24, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #3 includes the following: asphalt repaired along 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; and forty (40) days to the contract.

Change Order Justification: This change order was necessary due to user/owner requested modifications; and days for work as indicated herein.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Three (3) change orders for a total amount of \$159,711.00.

Project Initiation Date: September 03, 2024

Design Professional: Neel Schafer, Inc.

General Contractor: Brown and Root

Total Project Budget: \$2,466,748.33

## 7. MUW- GS 104-215 – JONES HALL RENOVATION

### **Approval Request #1: Design Development Documents**

Board staff approved the Design Development Documents as submitted by Shafer Zahner Zahner.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 07, 2025

Project Initiation Date: March 21, 2024

Design Professional: Shafer Zahner Zahner

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$9,578,925.00

## 8. MUW- IHL 204-136 – CAMPUS WIDE REROOFING

### **Approval Request #1: Change Order #1**

Board staff approved Change Order #1 in the amount of \$31,036.77 and twenty-five (25) additional days to the contract of Roofing Solutions, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 25, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #1 includes the following: replaced damaged sub-facia and soffit at high eave on Stark building; replace damaged decking and insulation on Stark building; credit to omit exterior painting on Stark building; and twenty-five (25) days to the contract.

Change Order Justification: This change order was necessary due to latent job site conditions; and days for work as indicated herein.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: One (1) change order for a total amount of \$31,036.77.

Project Initiation Date: November 16, 2023

Design Professional: JBHM Architects

General Contractor: Roofing Solutions, LLC

Total Project Budget: \$2,752,710.00

# EXHIBIT 1

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## UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

### 9. UM-IHL 207-477 – OLE MISS SOCCER COMPLEX RENOVATION

#### **Approval Request #1: Schematic Design Documents**

Board staff approved the Schematic Design Documents as submitted by McCarty Architects, P.A.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 13, 2025

#### **Approval Request #2: Waiver Design Development Documents**

Board staff approved the Waiver of Design Development Documents as submitted by McCarty Architects, P.A.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 13, 2025

#### **Approval Request #3: Contract Documents**

Board staff approved Contract Documents as submitted by McCarty Architects, P.A.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 06, 2025

#### **Approval Request #4: Advertise**

Board staff approved request to advertise for receipt of bids.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 06, 2025

Project Initiation Date: October 20, 2022

Design Professional: McCarty Architects, P.A.

General Contractor: W&W Construction

Total Project Budget: \$3,025,135.00

## UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

### 10. UMMC-IHL 209-580A – ADOLESCENT PSYCHOLOGY – ADMIN OFFICES

#### **Approval Request #1: Change Order #2**

Board staff approved Change Order #2 in the credit amount of \$2,377.38 and twenty-six (26) additional days to the contract of Diversified Construction Services.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 24, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #2 includes the following: reconcile signage allowance; installation of two furr-downs at the corridor transitions between the new lay-in ceiling and new hard ceilings; replace four existing smoke detectors; and twenty-six (26) additional days to the contract.

Change Order Justification: These changes are necessary due to latent job site conditions; use/owner requested modifications; and days for work as indicated herein.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Two (2) change orders for a total amount of \$41,558.09.

Project Initiation Date: August 18, 2022

Design Professional: JH&H

General Contractor: Diversified Construction Services

Phased Project Budget: \$2,160,490.48

Total Project Budget: \$10,500,000.00

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## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

### 11. USMGP-IHL 210-248 – OYSTER HATCHERY AND RESEARCH CENTER

#### **Approval Request #1: Award**

Board staff approved the Award of Contract in the amount of \$9,587,000.00 to the apparent low bidder Dan Hensarling, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, February 21, 2025

Project Initiation Date: November 15, 2018

Design Professional: McCarty Architects, P.A.

General Contractor: Dan Hensarling, Inc.

Total Project Budget: \$14,000,000.00

# EXHIBIT 2

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## 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 (statement dated 1/29/25) from the funds of Jackson State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$3,460.00, represents services and expenses in connection with an immigration/labor certification matter.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 3,460.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC (statement dated 2/11/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$3,885.00, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 3,885.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Brunini (statements dated 12/10/24 and 2/18/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$1,085.00 and \$175.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,260.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Lightfoot Franklin White, LLC (statement 2/10/25 dated) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$2,155.50, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 2,155.50**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statements dated 2/4/25, 2/11/25, 2/11/25, 2/11/25, 3/7/25, 3/7/25 and 3/7/25) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$200.00, \$3,110.00, \$6,415.00, \$3,610.00, \$2,805.00, \$35.14 and \$645.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 16,820.14**

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

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 1/22/25, 1/22/25 and 1/22/25) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements,



# EXHIBIT 2

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in the amounts of \$172.50, \$103.50 and \$172.50, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 448.50**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Quarles & Brady, LLP (statement dated 1/30/25) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$250.00, represents services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 250.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Stites & Harbison (statements dated 1/30/25 and 1/30/25) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$3,731.00 and \$2,839.07, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 6,570.07**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 2/21/25 and 2/21/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$171.00 and \$552.00, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 723.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 12/17/24, 12/17/24, 12/17/24, 1/22/25 and 1/22/25) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$67.50, \$409.50, \$800.00, \$103.50 and \$69.00, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,449.50**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mendelsohn Dunleavy (statements 1/10/25, 1/10/25, 1/10/25 and 1/10/25 dated) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$210.00, \$2,445.00, \$7,072.50, and \$960.00, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 10,687.50**

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**1. SYSTEM – MODIFICATION OF EXISTING ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Board Policy 503 states: “As part of its broad constitutional authority to govern the universities, the Board shall exercise its authority to modify programs offered by the universities generally or at various units of the universities.”

In accordance with Board policy 503, Delta State University, Jackson State University, and the University of Mississippi request approval for the modification of existing academic degree programs.

RENAMING

A. **DSU - Current program title:** Bachelor of Science (BS) in Family and Consumer Science  
**Proposed program title:** Bachelor of Science (BS) in Family and Child Studies

*CIP code, sequence:* 19.0101, 5077

*Total credit hours:* 120

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Rationale:* This proposal includes two separate changes. The first is to rename the B.S. in Family and Consumer Sciences with a concentration in Child Development to a B.S. in Family and Child Studies. The second change is to revise the existing curriculum. A review of enrollment trends in the Spring of 2024 showed a continuous decline in enrollment in FCS - Child Development with many students needing largely online coursework due to their work schedules. The demand for the program is largely for those interested in working in early childhood settings or within child/family advocacy careers, not those seeking a license to teach. The current FCS-CD program is accredited by AAFCS. Accreditation has been maintained to enable child development students to take licensure exams; passing those exams would enable students to teach Pre-K and Kindergarten in public schools. However, data for the past two years have been collected and reviewed. It indicated that only two students applied for licensure outside of those who received one during the COVID Waiver which ended 12/31/23. Other students have not passed the licensure exam, largely because this is not a traditional teacher preparation program. Changing the degree to Family and Child Studies will continue to include foundational courses in early childhood education, and these courses will be supported with those from social work, psychology, business, health education, and elementary education. Students will be better equipped to seek careers in diverse areas that focus on children and the family. It will also eliminate the need for continued AAFCS accreditation in 2025.

B. **JSU - Current program title:** Master of Science in Education (MSEd) in Reading  
**Proposed program title:** Master of Science in Education (MSEd) in Literacy Education

*CIP code, sequence:* 13.1315, 4473

*Total credit hours:* 33

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Rationale:* The current MSEd in Reading focuses singularly on addressing learner deficiencies in reading. The MSEd in Literacy Education will expand the program’s content reach. The program will take a holistic approach to literacy focusing on the interconnectedness of the reading and writing processes as well as language development. The name change reflects a

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more inclusive approach that encompasses reading, writing, and diverse learning needs and experiences. Aligning with this shift will enhance program visibility, attract a broader range of applicants, and ensure consistency with evolving literacy education standards.

- C. **MSU** - *Current program title:* Bachelor of Science (BS) in Industrial Engineering  
***Proposed program title:* Bachelor of Science (BS) in Industrial and Systems Engineering**  
*CIP code, sequence:* 14.3501, 5227  
*Total credit hours:* 120  
*Effective date:* August 2025  
*Rationale:* This requested name change brings the bachelor's degree in line with the existing MS and PhD programs. Industrial and Systems Engineering is also the current name of the department. No curricular modifications have been made. The addition of "Systems Engineering" calls specific attention to the description of the academic discipline related to "systems of people, material, information, and energy." The description also highlights the inclusion of instruction in systems design.
- D. **UM** - *Current program title:* Bachelor of Science (BS) in Public Health and Health Science  
***Proposed program title:* Bachelor of Science (BS) in Public Health**  
*CIP code, sequence:* 51.2207, 5891  
*Total credit hours:* 120  
*Effective date:* May 2025  
*Rationale:* Public health is an exciting field dedicated to protecting and improving the health of people and their communities. This work is achieved by promoting healthy lifestyles, researching disease and injury prevention, eliminating health disparities, and responding to environmental threats. The name change provides consistency with the language used on campus.
- E. **UM** - *Current program title:* Master of Science (MS) in Hospitality Management  
***Proposed program title:* Master of Science (MS) in Hospitality Management and Leadership**  
*CIP code, sequence:* 52.0910, 5806  
*Total credit hours:* 30  
*Effective date:* August 2025  
*Rationale:* This degree program prepares students for leadership and managerial positions in the hospitality and tourism industry, equipping them with the critical skills and knowledge required for success. The name change and the increased emphasis on leadership within the program aligns with the institution's mission to foster global responsibility and develop leadership in its graduates.
- F. **USM** - *Current program title:* Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Strategic Communication  
***Proposed program title:* Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Strategic Communication – Organizational Communication**  
*Current CIP code, sequence:* 09.0909, 5544  
***New CIP code, sequence:* 09.0901, 5544**  
*Total credit hours:* 120  
*Effective date:* August 2025

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*Rationale:* The requested name change is necessary for the program's identity and to improve recruiting.

- G. **USM - Current program title:** Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Art  
**Proposed program title: Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Studio Art**  
*Current CIP code, sequence:* 50.0101, 5647  
**New CIP code, sequence: 50.0702, 5647**  
*Total credit hours:* 120  
*Effective date:* August 2025  
*Rationale:* This proposed modification is a result of USM's Program Inventory Review process. The Art & Design program has thrived for decades as a single program under a single BFA Art degree, with three emphasis areas: Graphic Design, Drawing & Painting, and Sculpture. While our overall graduation numbers in the Art BFA have met both IHL and University benchmarks, graduation numbers of two emphasis areas within the program (Drawing & Painting, and Sculpture) when calculated separately by the University, have not met these benchmarks individually. The emphasis areas of Drawing & Painting and Sculpture are therefore being consolidated in this proposed degree program, the BFA in Studio Art. Combining these emphasis areas will enable us to grow the visibility of Studio Art at USM and meet or exceed IHL graduation benchmarks. The corresponding CIP code change for the BFA in Studio Art is proposed to more accurately reflect the curriculum and degree plan of the program.
- H. **USM - Current program title:** Bachelor of Science (BS) in Child and Family Sciences BS  
**Proposed program title: Bachelor of Science (BS) in Family Science**  
*Current CIP code, sequence:* 19.0704, 5598  
**New CIP code, sequence: 19.0707, 5598**  
*Total credit hours:* 120  
*Effective date:* August 2025  
*Rationale:* The requested name change and CIP code better align with the coursework included in this degree program.
- I. **USM - Current program title:** Bachelor of Science (BS) in Forensics  
**Proposed program title: Bachelor of Science (BS) in Crime Scene Investigation**  
*CIP code, sequence:* 43.0406, 5775  
*Total credit hours:* 120  
*Effective date:* August 2025  
*Rationale:* This degree program is being redesigned to seek accreditation through the American Academy of Forensic Science (AAFS) Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) which accredits college level forensic science educational programs. To better align our program to FEPAC requirements, the Forensic Science Curriculum Committee proposes redesigning our program to three separate programs, all at the IHL level: Forensic Biology BS, Forensic Chemistry BS, and Crime Scene Investigation BS. These programs will utilize existing courses and newly developed courses to ensure that our students are receiving the highest quality of forensic science education.

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- J. **USM - Current program title:** Bachelor of Science (BS) in Sustainability Sciences (Coastal System Dynamics)  
**Proposed program title: Bachelor of Science (BS) in Sustainability Sciences**  
*CIP code, sequence:* 30.3301, 5901  
*Total credit hours:* 120  
*Effective date:* August 2025  
*Rationale:* This degree program is a multi-disciplinary science degree aimed at addressing resilience and sustainability of coastal zones as a combination of human and ecological systems. The degree is built from ecology, geography, statistics and mathematics, field methods, and electives courses in resources, human wellbeing, environment, and society. The name change reflects supporting sustainable economic growth not only on the coast but also in Mississippi and the USA more broadly.
- K. **USM - Current program title:** Master of Science (MS) in Child and Family Sciences  
**Proposed program title: Bachelor of Science (BS) in Human Development and Family Science**  
*Current CIP code, sequence:* 19.0704, 4536  
***New CIP code, sequence: 19.0701, 4536***  
*Total credit hours:* 37  
*Effective date:* August 2025  
*Rationale:* The requested name change and CIP code better align with the coursework included in this degree program.

CONSOLIDATING

- L. **USM – Current program titles:** Master of Science (MS) in Geography, Master of Science (MS) in Geology, and Master of Science (MS) in Environmental Science  
**Proposed program title: Earth and Environmental Sciences MS**  
*Current CIP codes, sequences:* 45.0701, 4393; 40.0601, 4380; and 03.0104, 4604  
***New CIP code, sequence: 03.0104, 4604***  
*Total credit hours:* 30  
*Effective date:* August 2025  
*Rationale:* Due to declining enrollment, USM is requesting to consolidate these three degree programs. The need for well-trained earth and environmental scientists is growing with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics indicating a "bright outlook" for these jobs including a job growth rate that is faster than average and a projected 100,000 or more job openings over the next 10 years nationwide. USM's current program offerings have followed these trends by having a near 100% placement of graduates in industry ranging from local (e.g., city government, environmental firms), state (e.g., MDEQ), and federal governments (e.g., Naval Oceanographic Office at the Stennis NASA base, Army Corps of Engineering), to nationwide organizations (e.g., petroleum industry, environmental industry). Environmental Science degrees have boasted an average 4% year-over-year growth rate at the bachelor's level which has subsequently transitioned into a 4% average growth rate in Master's graduates with this degree plan over the last 5 years indicating an increased demand for this field.

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DELETING

**M. USM - Program title: Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Philosophy**

*CIP code, sequence:* 38.0101, 5619

*Total credit hours:* 120

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Rationale:* As part of USM's program review, Philosophy and Religion faculty chose to launch a new major called Philosophy, Religion, and Law and for it to replace the BA in Philosophy.

**N. USM - Program title: Bachelor of Science (BS) in Political Science**

*CIP code, sequence:* 45.1001, 5643

*Total credit hours:* 120

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Rationale:* USM currently offers a BS in Political Science and BA in Political Science with two emphasis areas. All three will be combined into one degree program.

**O. USM - Program title: Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Sustainability Studies**

*CIP code, sequence:* 30.1003, 5900

*Total credit hours:* 120

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Rationale:* Enrollment has been low consistently since the program began. Due to lack of enrollment and interest from students, this program is being deleted.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends approval of these items.**

**2. USM – MODIFICATION OF AN EXISTING ACADEMIC UNIT**

In accordance with Board policies 503 and 504, the University of Southern Mississippi submits a request to modify an existing academic unit.

RENAMING

*Current unit:* School of Child and Family Studies

***Proposed Title:* School of Human Development and Family Science**

*Unit Location:* College of Education and Human Sciences

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Cost of implementation:* \$0

*Rationale:* Child and Family Sciences is an older title that isn't represented in the field as it once was. Most universities with similar schools or departments use the title, "Human Development and Family Science" or a similar title. Changing the school title will be more appealing to students and will make us more competitive in today's market. Furthermore, the new title better captures USM's focus on development through the lifespan and not just in childhood.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends approval of this item.**

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**3. SYSTEM – APPROVAL OF DEGREES TO BE CONFERRED IN SPRING 2025**

*Board Policy 510: Awarding of Degrees states that “Degrees granted by institutions under the governance of the Board are awarded by and with the consent of the Board and are countersigned by the President of the Board. Recommendations for the awarding of degrees to students by the various institutions must be made no later than the Board meeting prior to the commencement at which such awards will be made.”*

In accordance with Board policy, the institutions below request permission to award degrees at the following levels in Spring 2025, provided each candidate has met all requirements for the degree.

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Degree to be Conferred</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Alcorn State University</b>				
	<i>Undergraduate</i>			
	Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN)	45		
	Bachelor of Arts (BA)	77		
	Bachelor of Science (BS)	188		
	Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)	23		
	Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)	11		
	<i>Graduate</i>			
	Master of Arts in History (MA)	1		
	Master of Business Administration (MBA)	10		
	Master of Liberal Arts (MLA)	6		
	Master of Science (MS)	49		
	Master of Science in Secondary Education (MSEd)	7		
	Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)	8		
	Specialist in Education (EdS)	2		
	Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)	4		
	<b>Total Undergraduate Degrees</b>		<b>344</b>	
	<b>Total Graduate Degrees</b>		<b>87</b>	
	<b>Total Degrees</b>			<b>432</b>

**Delta State University**

*Undergraduate*

Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)	6
Bachelor of Arts (BA)	27
Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)	55
Bachelor of Commercial Aviation (BCA)	23
Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)	14
Bachelor of Music (BM)	2
Bachelor of Music Education (BMEd)	4
Bachelor of Science in Education (BSEd)	27

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Bachelor of Science (BS)	66	
Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies (BSIS)	11	
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)	18	
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Criminology (BSJC)	6	
Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)	10	
Bachelor of University Studies (BUS-C2C)	2	
<i>Graduate</i>		
Master of Applied Science (MAS)	4	
Master of Art in Liberal Studies (MALS)	6	
Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)	10	
Master of Business Administration (MBA)	31	
Master of Commercial Aviation (MCA)	3	
Master of Education (MEd)	31	
Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA)	1	
Master of Science in Sport and Human Performance (MS)	21	
Master of Science in Natural Sciences (MSNS)	1	
Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)	8	
Master of Science in Criminal Justice and Criminology (MSJC)	12	
Specialist in Education (EdS)	27	
Doctor of Education (EdD)	5	
<b><i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i></b>		<b>271</b>
<b><i>Total Graduate Degrees</i></b>		<b>160</b>
<b><i>Total Degrees</i></b>		<b>431</b>

**Jackson State University**

<i>Undergraduate</i>		
Bachelor of Arts (BA)	50	
Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)	88	
Bachelor of Music (BM)	1	
Bachelor of Music Education (BMed)	2	
Bachelor of Science in Education (BSEd)	23	
Bachelor of Science (BS)	344	
Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)	18	
Bachelor of University Studies (BUS-C2C)	10	
<i>Graduate</i>		
Master of Arts (MA)	16	
Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)	24	
Master of Business Administration (MBA)	6	
Master of Music Education (MMEd)	0	



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Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA)	3	
Master of Public Health (MPH)	5	
Master of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA)	5	
Master of Science (MS)	41	
Master of Science in Education (MSEd)	18	
Master of Social Work (MSW)	75	
Specialist in Education (EdS)	47	
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	21	
Doctor of Public Health	7	
<b><i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i></b>		<b>536</b>
<b><i>Total Graduate Degrees</i></b>		<b>268</b>
<b><i>Total Degrees</i></b>		<b>804</b>

**Mississippi State University**

*Undergraduate*

Bachelor of Accountancy (BAccy)	86	
Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)	47	
Bachelor of Architecture (BArch)	45	
Bachelor of Arts (BA)	253	
Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)	513	
Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)	28	
Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (BLA)	10	
Bachelor of Music (BM)	2	
Bachelor of Music Education (BMEd)	16	
Bachelor of Science (BS)	2094	
Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)	17	
Bachelor of University Studies (BUS-C2C)	26	

*Graduate*

Master of Agribusiness Management (MABM)	13	
Master of Agriculture (MAG)	7	
Master of Arts (MA)	24	
Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)	10	
Master of Arts in Teaching Middle (MAT-ML)	2	
Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary (MAT-S)	16	
Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education (MAT-X)	6	
Master of Business Administration (MBA)	138	
Master of Engineering (MENG)	3	
Master of Fine Arts (MFA)	6	
Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)	3	
Master of Music Education (MMEd)	2	
Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS)	20	

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Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA)	40
Master of Public Policy and Administration (MPPA)	5
Master of Science (MS)	273
Master of Science in Instructional Technology (MSIT)	3
Master of Science Information Systems (MSIS)	15
Master of Taxation (MTx)	7
Specialist in Education (EdS_)	13
Doctor of Education (EdD)	9
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	67
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM)	111

<b><i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i></b>	<b>3,137</b>	
<b><i>Total Graduate Degrees</i></b>	<b>822</b>	
<b><i>Total Degrees</i></b>		<b>3,959</b>

**Mississippi University for Women**

*Undergraduate*

Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN)	48
Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)	16
Bachelor of Arts (BA)	14
Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)	39
Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)	7
Bachelor of Professional Studies (BPS)	8
Bachelor of Science (BS)	102
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)	64
Bachelor of University Studies (BUS-C2C)	2

*Graduate*

Master of Arts (MA)	2
Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)	2
Master of Business Administration (MBA)	4
Master of Education (MMEd)	1
Master of Fine Arts (MFA)	12
Master of Public Health (MPH)	5
Master of Science (MS)	20
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)	3

<b><i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i></b>	<b>300</b>	
<b><i>Total Graduate Degrees</i></b>	<b>49</b>	
<b><i>Total Degrees</i></b>		<b>349</b>

**Mississippi Valley State University**

*Undergraduate*

Bachelor of Arts (BA)	33
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Bachelor of Science (BS)	67	
Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSEd)	1	
Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)	13	
<i>Graduate</i>		
Master of Arts (MA)	9	
Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)	1	
Master of Business Administration (MBA)	8	
Master of Science (MS)	17	
Master of Social Work (MSW)	10	
<b><i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i></b>		<b>114</b>
<b><i>Total Graduate Degrees</i></b>		<b>45</b>
<b><i>Total Degrees</i></b>		<b>159</b>

**University of Mississippi**

<i>Undergraduate</i>		
Bachelor of Accountancy (BAccy)	206	
Bachelor of Arts (BA)	746	
Bachelor of Arts in Education (BAEd)	173	
Bachelor of Arts in Journalism (BAJ)	54	
Bachelor of Arts in Sport and Recreation Administration (BASRA)	33	
Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)	710	
Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)	30	
Bachelor of Multi-Disciplinary Studies (BMdS)	90	
Bachelor of Music (BM)	13	
Bachelor of Science (BS)	178	
Bachelor of Science (BS-IMC)	334	
Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering (BSBE)	41	
Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering (BSCHE)	8	
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering (BSCE)	24	
Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering (BSCpE)	3	
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BSCS)	44	
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice (BSCJ)	93	
Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE)	9	
Bachelor of Science in Engineering (BSE)	8	
Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science (BSES)	91	

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Bachelor of Science in Geological Engineering (BSGE)	6
Bachelor of Science in Geology (BSG)	1
Bachelor of Science in Law Studies (BSLS)	39
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME)	58
Bachelor of Science in Public Health & Health Sciences (BS)	31
Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)	13
Bachelor of University Studies (C2C)	15
<i>Graduate</i>	
Master of Accountancy (MAccy)	29
Master of Accountancy and Data Analytics (MADA)	38
Master of Arts (MA)	62
Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)	18
Master of Business Administration (MBA)	34
Master of Criminal Justice (MCJ)	4
Master of Education (MEd)	51
Master of Fine Arts (MFA)	16
Master of Laws (LLM)	11
Master of Music (MM)	9
Master of Public Health (MPH)	10
Master of Science (MS)	153
Master of Science in Criminal Justice (MSCJ)	4
Master of Science in Exercise Science (MSES)	4
Master of Science in Social Work (MSW)	2
Master of Taxation (MTx)	4
Master of Taxation and Data Analytics (MTDA)	9
Specialist in Education (EdS)	26
Doctor of Arts (DA)	1
Doctor of Education (EdD)	20
Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD)	91
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	68
Juris Doctor (JD)	153

<b><i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i></b>	<b>3,051</b>	
<b><i>Total Graduate Degrees</i></b>	<b>817</b>	
<b><i>Total Degrees</i></b>		<b>3,868</b>

**University of Mississippi Medical Center**

<i>Undergraduate</i>	
Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene (BS)	20

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Bachelor of Science in Health Systems Administration (BSHSA)	3	
Bachelor of Science in Histotechnology (BS)	3	
Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science (BS)	10	
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)	120	
Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences (BS)	27	
<i>Graduate</i>		
Master of Health Informatics and Information Management (MS)	2	
Master of Health Systems Administration (MHSA)	10	
Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences (MS)	64	
Master of Science in Biostatistics and Data Science (MS)	4	
Master of Science in Clinical Investigation (MS)	5	
Master of Science in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MS)	4	
Master of Science in Nuclear Medicine Technology (MS)	8	
Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)	114	
Master of Science in Population Health Science (MS)	4	
Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD)	40	
Doctor of Health Administration (DHA)	6	
Doctor of Medicine (MD)	162	
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)	16	
Doctor of Occupational Therapy (DOT)	37	
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	26	
Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT)	44	
<b><i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i></b>		<b>183</b>
<b><i>Total Graduate Degrees</i></b>		<b>546</b>
<b><i>Total Degrees</i></b>		<b>729</b>

**University of Southern Mississippi**

<i>Undergraduate</i>		
Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)	45	
Bachelor of Arts (BA)	173	
Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)	33	
Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS)	12	
Bachelor of Liberal Studies (BLS)	43	
Bachelor of Music (BM)	9	

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Bachelor of Music Education (BMed)	9	
Bachelor of Science (BS)	800	
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA)	213	
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)	79	
Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)	34	
Bachelor of University Studies (BUS-C2C)	14	
<i>Graduate</i>		
Master of Arts (MA)	22	
Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)	32	
Master of Arts in Teaching of Languages (MATL)	7	
Master of Business Administration (MBA)	53	
Master of Education (MEd)	28	
Master of Fine Arts (MFA)	7	
Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS)	57	
Master of Music (MM)	13	
Master of Music Education (MMEd)	1	
Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA)	9	
Master of Public Health (MPH)	20	
Master of Science (MS)	164	
Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT)	8	
Master of Social Work (MSW)	67	
Doctor of Audiology (AuD)	9	
Doctor of Education (EdD)	10	
Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)	8	
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)	46	
<b><i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i></b>		<b>1,464</b>
<b><i>Total Graduate Degrees</i></b>		<b>561</b>
<b><i>Total Degrees</i></b>		<b>2,025</b>
<b><i>System Total Undergraduate Degrees</i></b>		<b>9,400</b>
<b><i>System Total Graduate Degrees</i></b>		<b>3,355</b>
<b><i>System Total Degrees</i></b>		<b>12,755</b>

**\*Note: System Total for Spring 2025 represents an increase of 803 from Spring 2024's total of 11,952.**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends approval of these items.**

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**1. UMMC – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A LOCALLY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT WITH COVIDIEN SALES LLC**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to enter into a Locally Negotiated Agreement with **Covidien Sales LLC**, a Medtronic company (Covidien) to purchase endomechanical and trocar products. These products include staplers, reloads, trocars, access devices, laparoscopic accessories, and closure devices used to provide an access port during surgery and closure devices to seal incisions post-surgery. In addition, UMMC requests the ability to add and remove products and locations from the agreement as needed, including by amendment, as long as it does not increase the approved expenditure level.

**Contractor’s Legal Name: Covidien Sales LLC**

**History of Contract:** On June 18, 2020, the Board approved a three (3) year agreement with Covidien for a similar locally negotiated agreement which had better pricing than purchasing these items through Vizient, one of UMMC’s group purchasing organizations (GPO). On June 15, 2023, the Board approved an amendment to extend the term through June 30, 2024. Additionally, on June 20, 2024, the Board approved to extend the term by an additional 9 months. The agreement expires on March 31, 2025, and Covidien is allowing UMMC to buy items at the previously negotiated prices without a contract until the new agreement is in place. UMMC would like to enter into a new agreement with Covidien in order to continue purchasing these products at discounted rates.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is a new Locally Negotiated Agreement.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the contract is to purchase endomechanical and trocar products. These products include staplers, reloads, trocars, access devices, laparoscopic accessories, and closure devices used to provide an access port during surgery and closure devices to seal incisions post-surgery.

**Scope of Work:** Under the Agreement, Covidien will provide discounted pricing for staplers, reloads, trocars, access devices, laparoscopic accessories, and closure devices for use in surgical cases on an as needed basis. UMMC commits to purchase at least \$1,600,000 in net purchases annually and an 85% commitment of endomechanical and trocar combined product purchases in order to receive the discounted pricing.

**Term of Contract:** The term of the agreement is three (3) years, from May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2028.

**Termination Options:** The agreement may be terminated as follows:

- by Covidien upon thirty (30) days prior written notice if UMMC is not trending towards compliance with its commitment;

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- by either party at any time upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other party; and
- by either party upon written notice to the other party if necessary to comply with federal or state law, governmental decree, regulation, order or action.

**Contract Amount:** The total estimated cost of the agreement over the three (3) year term is \$7,600,000.00. Beginning in year one, UMMC has included a 20% increase for volume growth.

**Funding Source for Contract:** The contract will be funded by hospital patient revenue.

**Contractor Selection Process:** The endomechanical and trocar products qualify as clinical commodities under Miss Code Ann §31-7-1, which are exempted from procurement requirements under §31-7-13.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

2. **UMMC – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND A  
RADIOPHARMACEUTICAL PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH NUMEDRX  
PHARMACY SOLUTIONS, LLC**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to amend its Radiopharmaceutical Purchase Agreement with **NuMedRx Pharmacy Solutions, LLC** (NuMedRx) to add UMMC Madison as a location. The Radiopharmaceutical Agreement is for the purchase of radiopharmaceutical drugs used in Nuclear Medicine and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes in pediatric and adult patients. Diagnostically, the radiopharmaceuticals enhance radiologic images to allow providers to have more precise information leading to more accurate diagnoses. Therapeutically, radiopharmaceuticals are used for purposes such as the destruction of cancer cells or pain treatment for things such as bone cancer or arthritis. Additionally, UMMC requests approval to add and/or remove drugs listed in the agreement as well as permission to add and remove locations, via amendment or written agreement of the parties, without seeking prior Board approval as long as adequate funds are available.

**Contractor’s Legal Name:** NuMedRx Pharmacy Solutions LLC



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**History of Contract:** On August 17, 2023, the Board approved the Radiopharmaceutical Purchase Agreement with NuMedRx to purchase radiopharmaceutical drugs used in Nuclear Medicine and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes in pediatric and adult patients. The agreement will expire on August 31, 2028.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is an amendment to the Radiopharmaceutical Purchase Agreement.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the amendment is to add a location for UMMC Madison. The purpose of the Agreement is to purchase radiopharmaceutical drugs used in Nuclear Medicine and Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes in pediatric and adult patients. Diagnostically, radiopharmaceuticals enhance radiologic images to allow providers to have more precise information leading to more accurate diagnoses. Therapeutically, radiopharmaceuticals are used for purposes such as the destruction of cancer cells or pain treatment for things such as bone cancer or arthritis.

**Scope of Work:** supply and deliver radiopharmaceuticals to UMMC imaging locations under the following terms:

- unlimited local weekday deliveries, including STAT deliveries, during normal business hours at no charge;
- one local scheduled delivery at no charge on weekends and holidays;
- weekend local STAT or afterhours deliveries;
- local and out of town FDG deliveries; and
- other out of town deliveries;
- provide an after-hours pharmacist services;
- provide all instrumentation required to use the products in medical procedures at no additional cost;
- provide sales reports as requested and meet with UMMC on a quarterly basis to review contract compliance and opportunities for improvement;
- replace unused and unopened products without a restocking fee; and
- issue full credit or replacement for any defective product.

Under the agreement, UMMC commits to purchase ninety-five percent (95%) of its non-research needs of contract products from NuMedRx.

**Term of Contract:** The term of the agreement remains unchanged, it is sixty (60) months, from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2028.

**Termination Options:** The agreement may be terminated as follows:

- by UMMC upon one hundred eighty (180) days' written notice;
- by either party if any of the following events occur: (a) A party is in breach of any material term, condition or provision of this Agreement, or more than one breach

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that cumulatively constitutes a material breach, which breach is not cured within sixty (60) days after the non-breaching party gives the breaching party written notice of such breach(es), or (b) the other party (i) terminates or suspends substantially all of its business activities, or (ii) becomes subject to any bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding under federal or state statutes which is not rescinded within sixty (60) days;

- by UMMC if NuMedRx is unable to provide the required services for thirty (30) consecutive days as a result of a continuing force majeure event; and
- by UMMC in the event NuMedRx improperly uses or discloses protected health information (Information should be formatted to begin on this line)

**Contract Amount:** The estimated cost of the agreement remains unchanged, it is \$21,375,000 over the five (5) year term. This cost includes a twenty-five (25%) annual increase for potential manufacturer price increases and patient volume growth.

**Funding Source for Contract:** The agreement will be funded by hospital patient revenue.

**Contractor Selection Process:** UMMC is currently contracted with NuMedRx.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

3. **UMMC – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND ITS PRIMARY DISTRIBUTION SERVICES SCHEDULE WITH OWENS & MINOR DISTRIBUTION, INC.**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to amend its Primary Distribution Services Schedule with **Owens and Minor Distribution, Inc. (O&M)**. The Primary Distribution Services Schedule is for the purchase and distribution of medical/surgical products, as well as related hospital consumable supplies, capital equipment, and non-traditional medical-surgical goods, and special orders as needed. Under the Distribution Schedule, O&M will provide inventory management, Low Unit of Measure stock picking operations (LUM), and delivery services to UMMC hospitals and clinics. Additionally, UMMC requests permission to amend the agreement to remove specific services provided by O&M under the agreement or to add and delete delivery locations and delivery schedules without seeking prior Board approval as long as adequate funds are available.

**Contractor’s Legal Name:** Owens and Minor Distribution, Inc.

**History of Contract:** In February of 2022, the Board approved UMMC to enter a new Master Services Agreement and Primary Distribution Services Schedule with O&M. The Master Services Agreement with O&M establishes the general business and legal terms

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for future schedules between the parties. The Master Services Agreement is incorporated into each services schedule, and each services schedule is treated as a separate, standalone agreement that includes the terms of the Master Services Agreement. UMMC currently utilizes O&M for medical/surgical product distribution via a Vizient group purchasing organization contract. By contracting directly with O&M, UMMC was able to lock in pricing for the term and to establish performance requirements for service delivery to UMMC hospitals and clinics.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is an Amendment to the Primary Distribution Services Schedule

**Purpose:** The purpose of the amendment is to add delivery locations to the Primary Distribution Services Schedule. The purpose of the Primary Distribution Services Schedule is to provide primary medical/surgical product distribution, as well as related hospital consumable supplies, capital equipment, and non-traditional medical-surgical goods, and special orders as needed. O&M provides warehouse space, inventory management, and logistics services for a large volume of medical/surgical supplies and serves as a consolidator for many different manufacturers' products stored together in its warehouse and available for quick delivery to UMMC. Additionally, O&M ensures a consistent supply of medical/surgical products and eliminates the need for UMMC to warehouse large quantities of medical products.

**Scope of Work:** Under the Primary Distribution Services Agreement, O&M will:

- deliver acute care/medical surgical products to UMMC facilities each week;
- deliver other products such as capital equipment, and non-traditional medical-surgical goods, and special orders as needed;
- meet certain requirements for delivering a percentage of UMMC orders in specified categories;
- provide a prompt payment rebate to UMMC for early payments;
- provide a quarterly rebate based on the volume of O&M branded products UMMC purchases during a quarter; and
- pay a monthly penalty if the percentage of items ordered by UMMC are not delivered according to certain metrics.

Under the Primary Distribution Services Agreement, UMMC will:

- utilize O&M as its primary vendor for acute care distribution of medical/surgical products;
- purchase a minimum spend of products each year;
- purchase ninety-five percent (95%) of its acute care medical/surgical products through O&M;
- purchase a minimum market share of O&M branded products; and
- pay quarterly incentive payments if O&M meets certain metrics.

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**Term of Contract:** The term of the Master Services Agreement remains unchanged, it is five (5) years, from March 1, 2022, through February 28, 2027. The term of the Primary Distribution Services Schedule also remains unchanged, it is five (5) years, from March 1, 2022, through February 28, 2027.

**Termination Options:** The Master Services Agreement may be terminated as follows:

- automatically upon termination of the agreement between Vizient Supply, LLC and O&M;
- by either party upon written notice to the other party in the event that:
  - the other party is in material breach of the performance of a duty or obligation under the agreement and such breach has not been substantially cured within thirty (30) days following receipt by the breaching party of written notice, or
  - (ii) a petition in bankruptcy is filed by or against the other party or the other party makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors or takes advantage of any insolvency or other laws affording protection against creditors;

The Primary Distribution Services Schedule may be terminated as follows:

- automatically upon termination of the agreement between Vizient Supply, LLC and O&M;
- automatically upon the expiration or termination of the Master Services Agreement;
- by either party upon written notice to the other party in the event that:
  - the other party is in material breach of the performance of a duty or obligation under the agreement and such breach has not been substantially cured within thirty (30) days following receipt by the breaching party of written notice, or
  - (ii) a petition in bankruptcy is filed by or against the other party or the other party makes an assignment for the benefit of creditors or takes advantage of any insolvency or other laws affording protection against creditors; and
- by UMMC upon one hundred eighty (180) days' advance written notice to O&M;

**Contract Amount:** The total estimated cost over the five (5) year term remains unchanged, it is \$337,425,000. Distribution service fees are a percentage of the purchase amount of medical/surgical supplies. The pass-through cost for item purchases, including medical/surgical supplies, hospital consumable supplies, capital equipment, and non-traditional medical surgical goods and special orders is estimated to be \$326,137,869 over the term. Beginning in year two (2), UMMC has included a ten percent (10%) increase for potential price and volume increases.

**Funding Source for Contract:** The agreement will be funded by hospital patient revenue.

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**Contractor Selection Process:** UMMC is currently contracted with O&M.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

**4. UMMC – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND A PRODUCT SALE AGREEMENT WITH AIRGAS USA, LLC**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to amend its Product Sale Agreement with **Airgas USA, LLC** (Airgas) to add cylinder and tank gasses for UMMC Madison and Colony Park North, as well as extend the term of the agreement. The agreement is for the purchase of cylinder medical gas and rental of the cylinders used to house the medical gas. Medical gases are consumed by adult and pediatric patients in inpatient and outpatient care areas at UMMC facilities in Jackson, Grenada, and Lexington. In addition, UMMC requests the ability to add or remove products under the agreement, and to amend the agreement to add additional locations without seeking prior Board approval as long as it does not increase the approved expenditure level.

**Contractor’s Legal Name:** Airgas USA, LLC

**History of Contract:** On November 17, 2022, the Board approved a five (5) year agreement with Airgas for cylinder medical gas. Without amendment, the agreement will expire on November 30, 2027.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is an Amendment to the Product Sale Agreement

**Purpose:** The purpose of the Amendment is to add cylinder and tank gasses for UMMC Madison and Colony Park North, as well as extend the term of the agreement. The purpose of the agreement is to provide cylinder medical gases for patient consumption in all adult and pediatric inpatient and outpatient care areas at UMMC facilities in Jackson, Grenada, and Lexington.

**Scope of Work:** Under the amended agreement, Airgas will:

- provide industrial, specialty, and/or medical gases to all UMMC locations, including UMMC Madison and Colony Park North;
- deliver cylinder medical gases during normal business hours or after hours as needed;
- maintain records of cylinder deliveries and returns; and
- provide bulk oxygen to UMMC Madison and Colony Park North.

**Term of Contract:** The amended term of the agreement is five (5) years and three (3) months, from December 1, 2022, through February 29, 2028. The original term of the

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agreement was five (5) years beginning December 1, 2022. The amendment adds three (3) months to the agreement.

**Termination Options:** The agreement may be terminated as follows:

- by UMMC, after the first two (2) years of the agreement, upon one hundred eighty (180) days' prior written notice;
- in the event of a reduction in funds;
- by UMMC upon thirty (30) days' notice to Airgas, if UMMC does not agree to a proposed price increase due substantial changes in volume of purchases;
- by UMMC, if Airgas is unable to provide products for thirty (30) consecutive days due to a force majeure event.
- by UMMC if UMMC changes its Group Purchasing Organization ("GPO") affiliation, and does not agree to maintain current terms, adjust the pricing, or enter into a new agreement;
- upon a material breach of the Agreement between Airgas and Vizient that is not cured within 30 days;
- by Airgas in the event UMMC becomes bankrupt or insolvent.

**Contract Amount:** The amended estimated total cost over the five (5) year and three-month term is \$1,625,000. The original estimated amount was \$1,400,000. UMMC requests an additional \$225,000 for the new locations and extended term.

**Funding Source for Contract:** The agreement will be funded by hospital patient revenue.

**Contractor Selection Process:** UMMC is currently contracted with Airgas.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

**5. UMMC- REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND THE BLOOD SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS, BIOMEDICAL SERVICES**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to amend its Blood Services Agreement with the **American National Red Cross, Biomedical Services (ARC)** to add UMMC Madison as a location. This agreement is for ARC to be the have a primary provider for the continuous supply of blood, blood products and reference testing services for those UMMC patients requiring human blood and/or blood product transfusions at UMMC Jackson, Grenada and Holmes County. UMMC also requests approval to substitute, add, or remove items covered by the agreement, and amend the agreement to add or remove locations, without requiring prior

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submission for Board approval, as long as it does not increase the approved expenditure level.

**Contractor's Legal Name: American National Red Cross, Biomedical Services**

**History of Contract:** On June 15, 2023, the Board approved an agreement with ARC for it to service as the primary provider of blood, blood products and reference testing services for those UMMC patients requiring human blood and/or blood product transfusions at UMMC Jackson, Grenada and Holmes County. The agreement will expire on June 30, 2026.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is an amendment to the Blood Services Agreement.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the amendment is to add UMMC Madison as a location under the agreement. The purpose of this agreement is to secure a primary supplier for the provision of blood, blood products and reference testing services for patient sample analysis.

**Scope of Work:** Under the Agreement, ARC will

- provide blood and blood products to UMMC;
- retrieve blood when blood is not required by UMMC;
- provide specialty blood products such as whole blood, and liquid plasma as requested by UMMC; and
- provide reference testing services for patient sample analysis.

Under the Agreement, Customer will:

- purchase seventy percent (70%) of its blood products from ARC,
- promptly inspect the blood upon receipt; and
- keep accurate records of patients supplied with blood.

**Term of Contract:** The term of the agreement remains unchanged. It is three (3) years, from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026.

**Termination Options:** The agreement may be terminated as follows:

- by either party if the other party fails to fulfill any one or more of its obligations under this Agreement and the breach continues for a period of thirty (30) days after the non-breaching party sends written notice of the breach;
- by either party if regulations are amended in a way that precludes a party from performing its obligations under this Agreement;
- by either party upon one hundred eighty (180) days' written notice to the other party; and
- by UMMC if blood or blood services are continuously unavailable for thirty (30) days due to a force majeure event.

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**Contract Amount:** The total estimated cost of the amended agreement over the three (3) year term is \$53,400,000. The original estimated cost of the agreement was \$46,400,000. UMMC requests an additional \$7,000,000 for the remainder of the term.

**Funding Source for Contract:** The agreement is funded by hospital patient revenue.

**Contractor Selection Process:** UMMC is currently contracted with ARC.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

**6. UMMC – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO AN END USER AGREEMENT WITH AGILITI HEALTH, INC.**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to enter into an End User Agreement with **Agiliti Health, Inc.** (Agiliti) to rent surgical lasers, medical equipment, and supplies, which will be utilized at UMMC Madison for urology cases requiring lasers to treat all manner of conditions such as prostate treatments, ablations of tumors, treatment of urinary tract infections, and bladder procedures. Under the agreement, UMMC will also rent Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy (ESL) procedural services, including a mobile, digital lithotripter unit and imaging equipment for use on UMMC patients to treat kidney stones found in the urinary tract. UMMC also requests approval to add or remove products and locations covered by the agreement, including by amendment, without seeking prior Board approval, as long as it does not increase the approved expenditure level.

**Contractor’s Legal Name:** Agiliti Health, Inc.

**History of Contract:** This is a new contract with Agiliti for lasers, medical equipment, and supplies, which will be utilized at UMMC Madison for urology cases requiring lasers. UMMC would like to enter the agreement at this time to maintain continuity of services at UMMC Madison.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is a new End User Agreement.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the agreement is to rent surgical lasers, medical equipment, and supplies, which will be utilized at UMMC Madison for urology cases requiring lasers to treat all manner of conditions such as prostate treatments, ablations of tumors, treatment of urinary tract infections, and bladder procedures. Under the agreement, UMMC will also rent Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy (ESL) procedural services, including a mobile, digital lithotripter unit and imaging equipment for use on UMMC Patients to treat kidney stones found in the urinary tract at the UMMC main campus.

**Scope of Work:** Under this agreement, Agiliti will provide:



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- equipment and supplies needed on a case by case basis;
- repair and maintenance of equipment in a reasonable and prompt manner;
- safety and other appropriate technical training and services in connection with the use of the equipment; and
- qualified, certified, and/or licensed technicians, in accordance with Mississippi state law, to provide technical support to physicians.

**Term of Contract:** The term of the agreement is two (2) years, from May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2027.

**Termination Options:** The agreement may be terminated as follows:

- in the event of breach of a material term of the agreement by either party, unless such breach is remedied within the thirty (30) day period between notification of termination and the effective date of the termination;
- by UMMC party upon thirty (30) days' written notice;
- in the event of any reduction in available funds to UMMC; and
- upon written notice to Agiliti of a material breach of the agreement or violation of the HIPAA Regulations that remains uncured following ten (10) days written notice, or immediately if cure is not possible, in the event Agiliti improperly uses or discloses protected health information.

**Contract Amount:** The estimated cost of the agreement is \$575,000 over the two (2) year term. This includes a twenty percent (20%) annual increase in year two (2) to allow for potential price increases and patient volume change.

**Funding Source for Contract:** This agreement will be funded by hospital patient revenue.

**Contractor Selection Process:** Agiliti is an approved vendor contracted with Vizient, UMMC's primary group purchasing organization (GPO) pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. § 31-7-13(m)(x).

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

7. **UMMC –REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING (MRI) SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ALLIANCE HEALTHCARE SERVICES, INC. d/b/a ALLIANCE HEALTHCARE RADIOLOGY**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to enter into a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Services Agreement with

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**Alliance HealthCare Services, Inc. d/b/a Alliance HealthCare Radiology (Alliance)** for the rental of a mobile MRI system at UMMC Madison.

**Contractor's Legal Name: Alliance HealthCare Services, Inc. dba Alliance HealthCare Radiology**

**History of Contract:** This is a new agreement with Alliance for the rental of a mobile MRI System. UMMC is entering this agreement at this time to maintain continuity of services at UMMC Madison.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is a new Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Services.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the agreement is for Alliance to rent UMMC a mobile MRI System at UMMC Madison.

**Scope of Work:** Under the agreement, Alliance shall provide

- mobile MRI equipment;
- maintenance of the mobile equipment;
- uptime guarantee of 97% per quarter;
- training to UMMC employees;
- all federal and ate radioactive materials licenses.

Under the agreement, UMMC will maintain all required licenses and regulatory approvals needed to operate the equipment, and provide a radiologist to provide interpretations of the MRI scans.

**Term of Contract:** The term of the agreement is two (2) years, from May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2027.

**Termination Options:** Termination options include the following:

- by the non-breaching party if the other party breaches any material covenant, term or provision of this agreement and the material breach is not cured within sixty (60) days following provision of notice to the breaching party;
- by either party if the other party commits or suffers (voluntarily or involuntarily) an act of bankruptcy, receivership, liquidation or similar event;
- by Alliance if UMMC fails to make any payment to Alliance when due and such failure continues for ten (10) days following notice;
- by UMMC upon sixty (60) days' written notice to Alliance, after the first twelve (12) months of the agreement;
- in the event of insufficient funds; and
- by either party, immediately for cause, if the other party's officers, directors, or employees or contractors providing services under the agreement become excluded, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in the Federal health care programs.

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**Contract Amount:** The total estimated cost of the amended agreement over the two (2) year term is \$460,000. UMMC has included a ten percent (10%) potential cost increase for year two as the agreement allows for an annual increase of the percentage increase for the Medical Care Services component of the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) as recorded by the Department of Labor Index for the then most recently available twelve-month period or three and ninety-nine hundredths percent (3.99%), whichever is greater.

**Funding Source for Contract:** The agreement will be funded by hospital patient revenue.

**Contractor Selection Process:** Alliance is the vendor currently providing services at this facility. UMMC has elected to continue with Alliance for a seamless transition of services and has verified pricing to confirm that the cost for these services is competitive and aligns with the market.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

**8. UMMC –REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF TWO PRODUCT SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS WITH ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS CORPORATION**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to two Product Schedule amendments with the **Roche Diagnostics Corporation** (Roche). One amendment is to add service and reagents for two pieces of equipment (C311 and e411) that will be moved to UMMC Madison from UMMC Grenada. The other adds additional testing for patient care which will allow UMMC to move some tests in house that are currently being sent to outside reference labs, as well as adding a robotic component to an existing piece lab equipment. The new component will allow UMMC to automate samples which removes the need for manual handing, receiving, and processing of samples to be tested. The original Product Schedule was for the lease of twelve (12) laboratory instruments, the purchase of reagents and supplies needed for diagnostic testing, service for the instruments, and training. The instruments and supplies are used to perform chemistry tests, such as liver and kidney function tests, and to help diagnose and treat numerous diseases including diabetes, hepatitis, kidney conditions, fertility, and thyroid problems. UMMC also requests approval to add or remove products under the agreement and to amend the agreement to add or change locations without seeking prior Board approval as long as it does not increase the approved expenditure level.

**Contractor's Legal Name: Roche Diagnostics Corporation**

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**History of Contract:** On August 17, 2023, the Board approved an amendment with Roche to add a Cobas 6000 analyzer series to the agreement and remove two (2) Integra 400 Plus and one (1) e411 Rack from the agreement. On May 21, 2020, the Board approved the Enterprise Agreement and Product Schedule with Roche Diagnostics Corporation (Roche) for the lease of twelve (12) laboratory instruments, the purchase of reagents and supplies needed for diagnostic testing, service for the instruments, and training. The agreement will expire on or about October 30, 2028.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is two amendments to the Product Schedule

**Purpose:** The purpose of the amendments is to add service and reagents for two pieces of equipment (C311 and e411) that will be moving to UMMC Madison from UMMC Grenada, adds additional testing for patient care, and a robotic component to an existing piece of lab equipment. The purpose of the Product Schedule is to lease twelve (12) laboratory instruments, purchase reagents and supplies needed for diagnostic testing, and provide service and training for the instruments. The instruments and supplies are used to perform chemistry tests, such as liver and kidney function tests, and to help diagnose and treat numerous diseases including diabetes, hepatitis, kidney conditions, fertility, and thyroid problems. The instruments will be located at the Main Clinical Laboratory in Jackson, multiple UMMC clinic locations, UMMC Grenada, UMMC Holmes County Hospital, and UMMC Madison.

**Scope of Work:** Under the amended Product Schedule, Roche will provide:

- Ten (10) laboratory instruments:
  - one (1) Cobas 8100 Beta,
  - two (3) Cobas 6000 <c 501/c 501/e601>,
  - two (2) Cobas c 501/e 601,
  - two (2) Cobas c 501,
  - three (1) Cobas 4000 <c 311>,
  - one (1) Cobas e 601;
- Equipment maintenance;
- Training;
- Associated reagents and supplies used in chemistry and immunoassay testing in multiple UMMC locations.

Under the revised agreement, UMMC commits to buy a minimum of \$1,292,221.67 in reagents per year.

**Term of Contract:** The amended term of the Product Schedule remains unchanged. It is eight (8) years, five (5) months and eight (8) days, commencing May 22, 2020, and ending five (5) years after date of installation of the last piece of equipment, which is expected to be on or about October 31, 2023. The original term was six years from May 22, 2020, through May 21, 2026, or five (5) years after the date of installation of the last piece of equipment, whichever was later. The amendment adds two (2) years, five (5)

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months and eight (8) days to the term and the expected end date will be on or about October 30, 2028.

**Termination Options: Termination Options:** The termination options contained in the Enterprise Agreement include the following:

- by Roche in the event of a default by UMMC;
- by UMMC in the event of default by Roche UMMC may terminate the applicable Schedule or the Enterprise Agreement;
- by UMMC in the event a product is continuously unavailable for ninety (90) days due to a force majeure event;
- by UMMC in the event of a reduction in funds if UMMC provides written proof to Roche showing that it lost appropriations, and as a consequence it will no longer be purchasing the products under the applicable Schedule;
- by UMMC, if Roche does not comply with the integration services warranty and Roche does not correct the failure within forty-five (45) days of the warranty notice, UMMC may terminate in the following thirty (30) days; and
- by Roche if UMMC does any of the following and does not correct the problem in 30 days:
  - UMMC engages in activities that Roche reasonably deems a risk to the security or integrity of Roche, the services or any personal information, or that are prohibited pursuant to the agreement,
  - UMMC fails to pay the fees/payments on any applicable schedule, and
  - UMMC fails to comply with any of the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Product Schedule may be terminated for the following:

- by UMMC upon one hundred eighty (180) days written notice to Roche, after the first thirty-six (36) months of the agreement; and
- if at any time after the 7-year anniversary of the original commencement date of any equipment included on the Schedule, the equipment has three (3) consecutive months of equipment failure, Roche may terminate its obligation to provide service on the equipment, and, if the equipment is leased or rented, require a return of the equipment to Roche.

The intersystem cache database software sublicense may be terminated:

- if the use of the software is a violation a third party's rights when used in accordance with the documentation and instructions, the vendor may terminate UMMC's license; and
- by either party upon the other party's breach.

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**Contract Amount:** The estimated cost of the Product Schedule remains unchanged. It is \$20,780,000.00 over the term.

**Funding Source for Contract:** The agreement will be funded by hospital patient revenue.

**Contractor Selection Process:** UMMC is currently contracted with Roche.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

9. **UMMC –REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH FLEX FINANCIAL, A DIVISION OF STRYKER SALES LLC**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to enter into a new lease agreement with **Flex Financial, a division of Stryker Sales LLC** (Stryker) for the use of OR Cameras and service on them. The Cameras will be used in all laparoscopic procedures at UMMC Madison. They will give the surgeon the ability to create still shot for guidance in surgery and the images as medical documentation. UMMC requests approval to add or remove items under the agreement or to amend the agreement as long as it does not increase the approved expenditure level.

**Contractor’s Legal Name:** Flex Financial, a division of Stryker Sales, LLC

**History of Contract:** This is a new agreement with Stryker for the lease of Laparoscopic cameras used in most general surgery cases. UMMC Madison has a current fleet of Stryker cameras used in surgical cases. UMMC requests to enter this agreement at this time for the continuity of services at UMMC Madison.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is a new lease agreement

**Purpose:** The purpose of the agreement is for UMMC to lease OR cameras for use at UMMC Madison and for the service of the equipment during the term.

**Scope of Work:** Under this agreement, Stryker will provide the leased OR Cameras and service on the equipment.

**Term of Contract:** The term of the agreement begins April 23, 2025, and will expire the three (3) years after delivery of the equipment which is expected on or about May 19, 2025.

**Termination Options:** The agreement may be terminated as follows:

- by UMMC during the first two month of the agreement upon written notice to Stryker;

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- by UMMC upon default or breach by Striker or if Stryker ceases to do business, becomes insolvent, bankrupt, merges or is sold;
- for insufficient funds, and
- by UMMC if Stryker is unable to provide the equipment for a period of thirty (30) consecutive days due to a continuing force majeure event.

**Contract Amount:** The total estimated cost of the agreement over the three (3) year and twenty-six (26) day term is \$960,000.

**Funding Source for Contract:** The agreement will be funded by hospital patient revenue.

**Contractor Selection Process:** Stryker is an approved vendor contracted with Vizient, Inc., one of UMMC's group purchasing organizations (GPO) pursuant to Miss. Code Ann. 31-7-13(m)(x).

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

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**Note:** Project numbers beginning with the prefix "GS" designate projects that the Bureau of Building provides management oversight for and are funded partially or wholly with state Bureau of Building bond revenues. Project numbers beginning with the prefix "IHL" designate projects that are funded from university self-generated sources including but not limited to donations, fees, and grants.

**APPROVAL OF BUDGET INCREASES AND/OR CHANGES OF SCOPE/FUNDING SOURCE(S)**

**IHL PROJECTS .....**

**1. UMMC – IHL 209-587 – MIND CENTER AND GERIATRIC CLINIC**

**Project Request:** The University of Mississippi requests to increase the project budget from \$4,000,000 to \$10,900,000 for an increase in the amount of \$6,900,000. The funding source will remain the same.

**Current Project Phase:** Design Phase

**Design Professional:** Foil Wyatt Architects & Planners, PLLC

**General Contractor:** TBD

**Insurance Coverage:** The firm carries errors and omissions coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000 per claim and \$1,000,000 aggregate.

**Purpose/Justification:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center wishes to increase the project budget by \$6,900,000.00 bringing the new total project budget to \$10,900,000.00. The increase will cover the newly established overall budget for this project and will be funded through the MIND Center Centralized MIND & Geriatric Clinic Fund.

**Project Scope:** This project will renovate the second, third and fourth floors of the UP Belhaven Building located at 1405 North State Street, Jackson, MS.

**Project Initiation Date:** April 18, 2024



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**Proposed Project Budget:**

	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Amount (+/-)</b>
Construction Costs	\$ 3,378,929.06	\$ 9,790,756.00	\$ 6,411,826.94
Architectural and Engineering Fees	\$ 300,135.94	\$ 587,445.36	\$ 287,309.42
Miscellaneous Project Costs	\$ 20,935.00	\$ 20,935.00	\$ 0.00
Furniture & Equipment	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Contingency	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 500,863.64	\$ 200,863.64
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>\$ 4,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,900,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,900,000.00</b>

**Proposed Funding Source(s):** MIND Center Centralized MIND & Geriatric Clinic Fund (\$10,900,000)

**Staff Recommendation:** Board staff recommends approval of this item.

**2. USM – IHL 210-248 – OYSTER HATCHERY AND RESEARCH CENTER**

**Project Request:** The University of Southern Mississippi requests an increase to the current project budget of \$14,000,000 by \$2,300,000 for a revised total budget of \$16,300,000.00. The project scope remains unchanged: to renovate the Invertebrate Growout II for oyster and aquaculture research located at USM’s Gulf Coast Research Laboratory - Cedar Point Campus, Ocean Springs, MS.

**Current Project Phase:** Design Phase

**Design Professional:** McCarty Architects, P.A.

**General Contractor:** TBD

**Insurance Coverage:** The firm carries errors and omissions coverage in the amount of \$2,000,000 per claim and \$2,000,000 aggregate.

**Purpose/Justification:** The University of Southern Mississippi requests an increase to the current project budget of \$14,000,000 by \$2,300,000 for a revised total budget of \$16,300,000.00. The project scope of the project is unchanged. The increase in funding will supplement outfitting the building during construction with aquaculture

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equipment required to hatch oysters. To meet the Treasury’s Special Award Condition requirement #3, before the closeout of the award, MDEQ must deliver to the Treasury confirmation that all aquaculture systems/equipment are complete/installed/operational, and the facility is fully functioning. The University must increase the project budget to meet MDEQ & Treasury requirements.

**Project Scope:** The board has approved a budget of \$14M to construct a new building and purchase aquaculture equipment to hatch oysters. The aquaculture equipment must be installed during construction and coordinated by the design professional to meet the Treasury requirements. An additional \$2.3M is required to meet this requirement. The University has the additional funds to ensure the project continues.

**Project Initiation Date:** November 15, 2018

**Proposed Project Budget:**

	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Amount (+/-)</b>
Construction Costs	\$ 9,587,000.00	\$ 9,587,000.00	\$ 0.00
Architectural and Engineering Fees	\$ 763,108.00	\$ 763,108.00	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous Project Costs	\$ 1,487,732.00	\$ 1,487,732.00	\$ 0.00
Furniture & Equipment	\$ 1,682,810.00	\$ 3,982,810.00	\$ 2,300,000.00
Contingency	\$ 479,350.00	\$ 479,350.00	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>\$ 14,000,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,300,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,300,000.00</b>

**Proposed Funding Source(s):** Senate Bill 2924, Laws of 2016 (\$3,000,000.00); MDEQ and US Treasury RESTORE ACT – Grant No. 1 RDCGR470130-01-00 – (11,000,000.00); USM/GCRL Funds (\$2,300,000.00)

**Staff Recommendation:** Board staff recommends approval of this item.

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**APPROVAL OF OTHER REAL ESTATE REQUESTS**

**3. MSU – DEMOLISH AND DELETE FROM INVENTORY – BUILDING #2160  
-CAMPUS LANDSCAPE OFFICE – STARKVILLE, MS**

**Agenda Request:** Mississippi State University requests approval to demolish and delete from inventory Building #2160 (Campus Landscape Office).

**Justification:** Building #2160 is a small pre-engineered metal building built in 1981. This building has experienced moisture and wildlife infiltration, and proper remediation and repairs exceed the building's value. Current occupants have vacated the building.

The letter of approval has been received from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History stating Building #2160 (Campus Landscape Office) is not eligible for designation as a Mississippi Landmark. All legal documentation will be kept on file in the Office of Real Estate and Facilities. Mississippi State University is acting in accordance with Board Policy §919 Prerequisites for Building Modification or Demolition, which requires Board approval prior to building modification or demolition.

**Staff Recommendation:** Board staff recommends approval of this item.

**4. MSU – DEMOLISH AND DELETE FROM INVENTORY – BUILDING #2222  
-BUCKNER LANE MODULAR ANNEX – SOUTH – STARKVILLE, MS**

**Agenda Request:** Mississippi State University requests approval to demolish and delete from inventory Building #2222 (Buckner Lane Modular Annex - South).

**Justification:** Building #2222 is a prefabricated temporary structure built in 2002. This building has experienced moisture continuous infiltration and proper remediation, and repairs could exceed building's value. Current occupants are slated to vacate the building.

The letter of approval has been received from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History stating Building #2222 (Buckner Lane Modular Annex - South) is not eligible for designation as a Mississippi Landmark. All legal documentation will be kept on file in the Office of Real Estate and Facilities. Mississippi State University is acting in accordance with Board Policy §919 Prerequisites for Building Modification or Demolition, which requires Board approval prior to building modification or demolition.

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**Staff Recommendation:** Board staff recommends approval of this item.

**5. MSU –KAPPA DELTA ADDITION & RENOVATION – EXTERIOR DESIGN APPROVAL**

**Agenda Request:** Mississippi State University requests approval of the exterior design for the Kappa Delta House Addition & Renovation project.

**Design Professional:** Wier Boerner Allin Architecture

**General Contractor:** TBD

**Insurance Coverage:** The firm carries errors and omissions coverage in the amount of \$2,000,000 per claim and \$2,000,000 aggregate.

**Purpose:** Mississippi State University is seeking approval of exterior design for the Kappa Delta House Additions & Renovations project. This is a privately funded project and will not utilize any MSU funds.

**Project Scope:** The project scope includes an addition and renovation of the existing Kappa Delta house on the MSU campus.

**Funding Source(s):** Privately Funded

Mississippi State University is acting in accordance with Board Policy §904(A), Board Approval, which requires the Board to approve the exterior design of the major buildings that have aesthetic impact on the overall campus, regardless of the cost of the project.

**Staff Recommendation:** Board staff recommends approval of this item.

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**Rendering 1: Kappa Delta House Additions & Renovations**



**Rendering 2: Kappa Delta House Additions & Renovations**



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**6. UM – APPROVAL OF A SPACE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH  
NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR THE UM – DESOTO  
REGIONAL CAMPUS**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi requests approval to enter into a lease with Northwest Community College to continue to house the University’s UM-DeSoto Regional Campus operations.

**Contractor’s Legal Name:** Northwest Community College

**History of Lease:** The UM-DeSoto campus has resided on the NWCC Southaven campus for a number of years.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is a space lease agreement.

**Purpose:** This space lease agreement will be for the lessor's satellite campus located in Southaven, Mississippi, known as the "DeSoto Center" and located at 5197 W.E. Ross Parkway, Southaven, MS 38671. The space lease includes dedicated space of 17,962 square feet as follows: 13,329 square feet for classrooms and 4,633 square feet for offices. The lease also includes 20,098 square feet of shared instructional space between the two institutions, and 55,633 square feet of common shared space.

**Term of Contract:** The term of this agreement is one (1) year, from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

**Termination Options:** The Lessee shall notify the Lessor at least thirty (30) days in advance of any reduction in space or termination of the Lease necessitated by the discontinuance or decrease in federal and/or state funds.

**Contract Amount:** The one (1) year space lease will total \$394,500.

**Funding Source for Contract:** E&G Funds

**Staff Recommendation:** Pending Legal Staff review this item for compliance with applicable law and found to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

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**7. USM – DEMOLISH AND DELETE FROM INVENTORY – BUILDING #965 -  
THE GATES HOUSE – GULF PARK CAMPUS**

**Agenda Request:** The University of Southern Mississippi requests permission to remove building 965 (The Gates House) at 113 Beach Park Place on its Gulf Park Campus from its inventory.

**Justification:** USM has submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), stating that the building does not contribute to the campus' character-defining elements/is noncontributing. A structural report and termite investigation were submitted as part of the NOI. MDAH has provided approval to demolish the building. The building does not conform to the campus' architectural style and poses a health, safety, and welfare risk. Further, building consultants and engineers have advised University personnel not to enter the building.

The letter of approval has been received from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History stating Building #965 (The Gates House) is not eligible for designation as a Mississippi Landmark. All legal documentation will be kept on file in the Office of Real Estate and Facilities. The University of Southern Mississippi is acting in accordance with Board Policy §919 Prerequisites for Building Modification or Demolition, which requires Board approval prior to building modification or demolition.

**Staff Recommendation: Board staff recommends approval of this item.**

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1. **UM – APPROVAL OF AMENDED AND RESTATED AFFILIATION AGREEMENT WITH THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI**

The University of Mississippi requests Board approval of an amended and restated affiliation agreement between the University and the Alumni Association of the University of Mississippi d/b/a Ole Miss Alumni Association. The term of the agreement is five years effective April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2030. The affiliation agreement meets the requirements of Board Policy 301.0806 University Foundation/Affiliated Entity Activities.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The Attorney General’s Office has reviewed the agreement and found it to be in compliance with applicable law and IHL Board of Trustees Policies and Bylaws. Board Staff recommends approval of this item.**



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**APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTION REQUEST**

1. **Employment**

**Mississippi State University**

Danny Alan Barefield; *rehired retiree*; Special Projects Coordinator, Extension Administration; salary of \$72,020.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; effective December 16, 2024

Shonda L. Cumberland; *rehired retiree*; Business Manager I, Computer Science and Engineering; salary of \$30,628.00.00 per annum, pro rata; Designated Funds; 12-month contract; effective November 08, 2024

David Carlton Lowery; *rehired retiree*; Lecturer, TEAL; salary of \$24,000.00 per annum, pro rata; Designated Funds; 9-month contract; effective January 02, 2025

Freddrick Murray, Jr; *rehired retiree*; Teacher Intern Supervisor, Office of Clinical Field-Based Instruction, Licensure and Outreach; salary of \$42,111.00 per annum, pro rata; Designated Funds; 12-month contract; effective January 02, 2025

Wanda P Norton; *rehired retiree*, Extension Program Assistant, Coastal Research & Extension Center; salary of \$25,000.00 per annum, pro rata; Designated Funds; 12-month contract; effective January 16, 2025

Brenda F Santucci; *rehired retiree*; Administrative Assistant I, Delta Research & Extension Center; salary of \$22,620.50 per annum, pro rata; Restricted Funds; 12-month contract; effective November 11, 2024

Susan H Steward; *rehired retiree*; MAT Coordinator, TEAL; salary of \$37,767.00 per annum, pro rata; Designated Funds; 9-month contract; effective January 16, 2025

Roger Glenn Thomas; *rehired retiree*; Vehicle Operator, Center for Cyber Education; salary of \$31,500.00 per annum, pro rata; Restricted Funds; 12-month contract; effective November 01, 2024

J. Byron Williams; *rehired retiree*; Extension Instructor III, Central MS Research & Extension Center; salary of \$69,800.00 per annum, pro rata; Designated Funds; 12-month contract; effective January 01, 2025

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2. **Sabbatical**

**University of Southern Mississippi**

Charkarra Anderson-Lewis; Professor of Public Health; salary of \$106,852 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 11, 2025 to December 31, 2025; professional development.

Fengwei Bai; Professor of Cell and Molecular Biology; salary of \$81,759 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 11, 2025 to December 31, 2025; professional development.

Joshua Bernstein; Associate Professor of English; salary of \$71,253 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 2, 2026 to May 8, 2026; professional development.

Brad Dufrene; Professor of Psychology; salary of \$90,000 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 11, 2025 to December 31, 2025; professional development.

Sukriye Filiz; Associate Professor of Economics; salary of \$90,284 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 11, 2025 to December 31, 2025; professional development.

Westley Follett; Associate Professor of History; salary of \$67,516 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 11, 2025 to December 31, 2025; professional development.

Xiaodan Gu; Associate Professor of Polymer Science and Engineering; salary of \$143,100 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 11, 2025 to December 31, 2025; professional development.

Brian LaPierre; Associate Professor of History; salary of \$66,430 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 2, 2026 to May 8, 2026; professional development.

Stephanie Smith; Associate Professor of Psychology; salary of \$76,500 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 2, 2026 to May 8, 2026; professional development.

Donald Yee; Professor of Ecology and Organismal Biology; salary of \$79,258 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 2, 2026 to May 8, 2026; professional development.

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1. **ASU – APPROVAL TO AWARD ONE HONORARY DEGREE**

The university requests approval to bestow two honorary degrees at its May 10, 2025 Commencement ceremony. Supporting documentation is on file at the Board Office.

**Staff Recommendation: Board staff recommends approval of this item.**

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1. **BLUE MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY – APPROVAL OF STAGE III – QUALIFY FOR FULL ACCREDITATION FOR THE BACCALAUREATE OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (BSN) PROGRAM**

In accordance with (a) and (b), Miss. Code (1991 Supp. § 37-129-1, et seq. which “empowers *the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning to establish rules and regulations and promulgate uniform standards for accreditation of schools of nursing.*”

Approval is requested for Stage III Application- Qualify for Full Accreditation for the Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) program for Blue Mountain Christian University.

On August 18, 2022, the Board of Trustees for the State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) approved the status of *Initial Accreditation* Baccalaureate of Science in Nursing (BSN) program for Blue Mountain Christian University (BMCU).

BMCU has completed the third stage in the process for establishing a new degree program. A recommendation of approval of Stage III allows the school of nursing to qualify for full accreditation for the BSN program.

Stage III, in the process of establishing a new degree program, includes a site visit during the last semester of the first graduating class in conjunction with the national nursing accrediting body, submission of program outcomes to include degree completion rate, graduate employment information, and application for Stage III Qualify for Full Accreditation. The state survey team consisting of representatives from the Accreditation Review and Evaluation Committee of the Mississippi Council of Deans and Directors of Schools of Nursing (MCDDSN) and the IHL Director of Nursing Education conducted an onsite visit on November 13-15, 2023, in conjunction with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), to validate the application for full accreditation and all materials pertaining to the BSN program. BMCU submitted the final report from CCNE granting Accreditation, with the next evaluation visit in Fall 2028, a completed application for Stage III and supportive evidence to qualify the BSN program for full accreditation.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends approval of this item.**

2. **SYSTEM – REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF SECOND READING AND REQUEST FINAL APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BOARD POLICY 602 FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIVERSITY SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS, SUBSECTION B. FULL ADMISSION FOR FIRST-TIME UNDERGRADUATES**

Board approval for final reading is requested for a proposed amendment to Board Policy

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Section 602.B. The rationale for this proposed amendment is to align with ACT changes that are effective as of April 2025. The proposed amendment will be effective April 2025 for all ACT scores received that follow the new format.

**602 - FRESHMAN ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIVERSITY SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS**

**B. FULL ADMISSION FOR FIRST-TIME UNDERGRADUATES**

A first-time undergraduate applicant is one who is a recent high school graduate who enrolls in the first fall term after graduation regardless of their summer school academic activity between graduation and their first fall term of enrollment. A December graduate who attends any postsecondary institution before enrollment would be considered a first-time transfer. Dual enrollment courses taken while in high school are not considered previous enrollment. The following criteria are established for both traditional and non-traditional first-time undergraduates. Traditional undergraduate students are defined as those who are under 25 years of age; non-traditional students are defined as individuals 25 years of age and older.

Full admission will be granted to all students who meet the following criteria:

- (1) Have completed high school graduation requirements and the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) or have completed equivalent requirements as determined by admitting IHL institution; have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.20 on a 4.0 grading scale as reported by the high school or as calculated by the admitting institution using an IHL-approved unweighted cumulative GPA calculator; and no ACT or SAT score is required; or
- (2) Have completed high school graduation requirements and the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) or have completed equivalent requirements as determined by admitting IHL institution; have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.50 as reported by the high school or as calculated by the admitting institution using an IHL-approved unweighted cumulative GPA calculator or a class rank in the top 50%; and have an ACT composite score of 16 or higher; or
- (3) Have completed high school graduation requirements and the College Preparatory Curriculum (CPC) or have completed equivalent requirements as determined by admitting IHL institution; have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 as reported by the high school or as calculated by the admitting institution using an IHL-approved unweighted cumulative GPA calculator; and have an ACT Composite score of 18 or higher.
- (4) Any student who does not meet the above requirements may be granted full admission by satisfying the NCAA Division I standards for student athletes who are “full qualifiers” or “academic redshirts”.

In lieu of ACT scores, students may submit equivalent SAT scores.

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~~Beginning fall 2021, institutions will use the highest ACT or SAT subject test scores from the same test type when scores from more than one test date are submitted. This process is known as superscoring. A combination of ACT and SAT subtest scores cannot be combined to calculate a superscore. Institutions will use ACT or SAT superscores as calculated by the ACT and SAT. Superscores generally use the highest subject test scores from the same test type when scores from more than one test date are submitted. A combination of ACT and SAT subtest scores cannot be combined to calculate a superscore.~~

Beginning April 2025, the ACT Composite score will be based on performance in the English, Math, and Reading sections. The Science and Writing sections will be optional and reported separately, with the Science section no longer included in the Composite score calculation. IHL institutions will not recalculate scores from tests taken prior to the rollout of the new Composite score structure.

In addition to their use for admissions, institutions may require ACT/SAT scores, ACCUPLACER, or other assessments for placement purposes prior to registration.

Students must submit a final, official transcript with a graduation date prior to the second term of enrollment.

Admitting institutions may establish additional admission requirements.

(BT Minutes, 9/93; 1/98; 3/2019; 4/2020; 6/2024; 4/2025)

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends waiver of the second reading and final approval of this item.**

3. **UM – REQUEST TO ADD A NEW CENTER**

In accordance with Board policy 502 and the approved Academic Guidelines for establishing and modifying institutes and centers, the University of Mississippi requests approval for the creation of a new center.

*Center title:* **The IMPACT Center for Pharmacy Transformation**

*Center location:* School of Pharmacy (Oxford and Jackson Campuses), Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (RIPS)

*Scope:* Limited Scope and Outreach

*Type:* Type 1 (Academic, Teaching, or Research)

*Effective date:* June 2025

*Total number of current faculty/ Total number of new faculty:* 1/0

*Total number of current staff/ Total number of new staff:* 0/0

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*Funding source:* No general funds are being requested. In year 1, the Center will be supported by existing funded agreements: The Mississippi Delta Health Collaborative, the Center for Telehealth, and MCCTR. Grant funding sources will be sought for future years. U.S. Department of Education, AmeriCorps, Department of Labor (5-year grant)

*Purpose:* The Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (RIPS), housed under the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy, is uniquely positioned to further opportunities to serve the mission at the University of Mississippi: to “transform lives, communities, and the world by providing opportunities for the people of Mississippi and beyond through excellence in learning, discovery, healthcare, and engagement.” The RIPS Structure currently has 5 other centers and this one would create a unique angle on how pharmacy can impact the profession through transformational service delivery and innovation. This new center aligns with the mission of the School of Pharmacy and what the RIPS statewide goals aim to achieve. Specifically, RIPS aims to protect Mississippians from risks to public health and to provide them with health-related information and access to quality healthcare necessary to increase the length and quality of their lives.

The IMPACT Center has an opportunity to elevate the awareness of the community of the work UM has done over the past several years to improve access by utilizing pharmacists as a touchpoint for patient care beyond dispensing. The School of Pharmacy began this work around 2008, with the MS Delta Project, and has continued to have a presence in the Mississippi Delta, working with pharmacists in clinics or community spaces to provide access to care related to chronic diseases management (mostly) through innovative service delivery. In addition to this, the School of Pharmacy has offered several opportunities for pharmacists to improve the care of their community through previous projects.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends approval of this item.**

4. **SYSTEM – REQUEST TO ADD NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAMS**

*Board Policy 502: New Academic Programs and Units states: “Requests to establish new degree 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 accordance with Board Policy 502, Jackson State University, Mississippi State University, and the University of Southern Mississippi request approval to establish new academic degree programs.

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**A. JSU – Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME)**

*CIP code:* 14.1901

*Total credit hours:* 126

Exception to IHL Policy 511 – Hours to Degree requested due to increased degree requirements to achieve accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Incremental, five-year cost of implementation:* \$3,494,250

*Potential new, five-year revenue:* \$6,112,400

*Unit where academic program will be housed:* College of Science, Engineering and Technology

*Number of students expected to enroll in first five years:* 220

*Number of students expected to graduate in first five years:* 194

*Program description:* Jackson State University seeks approval to establish a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME) program to expand its engineering offerings and meet regional and national demand for mechanical engineers. Building upon the existing strengths of the Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, and Electrical Engineering programs, this new program will provide students with a strong foundation in mechanical systems, materials science, thermodynamics, and manufacturing processes. Graduates will be prepared for careers in industries such as aerospace, automotive, renewable energy, manufacturing, and robotics. Additionally, the program will position students for success in professional engineering licensure and graduate studies.

*Institution(s) offering similar program(s):* University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University

*National and state supply and demand; Average wages:* The most recent employment projections for Mechanical Engineers in the State of Mississippi (2023-2025) were 1,260 with projected average annual openings of 90 for Mechanical Engineers with average annual increase of 3.3% as reported by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported estimate projections of 291,900 new job openings (11% increase) nationwide for the period 2023-2030 with annual earnings for entry level positions in Mechanical Engineering at \$99,510 (2023) and a projected 32,100 new jobs.

**B. JSU – Master of Science (MS) in Public Health Informatics and Analytics**

*CIP code:* 51.2201

*Total credit hours:* 36

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Incremental, five-year cost of implementation:* \$3,425,250

*Potential new, five-year revenue:* \$2,346,300



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*Unit where academic program will be housed:* Department of Health Policy Management  
*Number of students expected to enroll in first five years:* 180  
*Number of students expected to graduate in first five years:* 138

*Program description:* This degree program empowers students with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in the dynamic various industries. With a focus on leveraging technology to streamline industry processes, the program fosters collaborative problem-solving to analyze data and identify patterns. Graduates are equipped to take on specialist roles in analytics, business intelligence, and data science, with a strong foundation in informatics and analytics principles and the ability to specialize in a concentration area of their choice, such as bioinformatics, business analytics, data analytics, data science, and public health informatics. This program prepares students to be leaders and problem-solvers in the ever evolving field of informatics and analytics.

*Institution(s) offering similar program(s):* Alcorn State University, Mississippi State University, University of Mississippi, and University of Mississippi Medical Center

*National and state supply and demand; Average wages:* The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicates that jobs related to business analytics will have a 11% growth (+107,900 jobs) from 2023-33 with a median pay of \$99k. Jobs related to data science will have a 36% growth (+73,100 jobs) from 2023-33 with a median pay of \$108k.

**C. MSU – Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Organizational Leadership**

*CIP code:* 09.0901

*Total credit hours:* 120

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Incremental, five-year cost of implementation:* \$462,500

*Potential new, five-year revenue:* \$6,439,000

*Unit where academic program will be housed:* College of Professional and Continuing Studies

*Number of students expected to enroll in first five years:* 155

*Number of students expected to graduate in first five years:* 65

*Program description:* The Bachelor of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership is designed to meet the growing demand for agile leaders in today's workplace. This degree program emphasizes practical, applied learning to prepare graduates for leadership roles across various sectors, including industry, sports, non-profits, and government agencies (Federal, State, Municipalities etc.). Focused on critical thinking, ethical leadership, and strategic decision-making, the curriculum equips students to tackle real-world challenges in varying settings. Aligned with the college's mission and its Master of Applied Science in Organizational Leadership (MAS in OL), the program provides an accessible pathway for

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individuals seeking to advance their careers in leadership roles. This major is designed to provide a Thrive in Five (combined baccalaureate-master's program) pathway for students who want to pursue the MAS in OL.

*Institution(s) offering similar program(s):* None

*National and state supply and demand:* The Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Organizational Leadership is designed to address the growing demand for leadership professionals who are skilled in managing diverse teams, navigating complex organizational challenges, and fostering innovation in dynamic work environments. Given the College's primary target audience of employed adult learners, a comprehensive market analysis was conducted to validate the labor market demand for such a program. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics highlights those occupations requiring leadership skills, such as general managers, management analysts, human resources specialists, and training and development managers, are projected to grow by 7-11% from 2022 to 2032, outpacing the average growth rate for all occupations. The success of the BAS in Organizational Leadership program depends on strong partnerships with community colleges, military partners, and workforce advisory groups. Many of our current partner institutions have AAS programs that align seamlessly with the BAS, providing a direct pipeline for students seeking to advance their careers in leadership roles. Feedback from industry advisory councils confirmed that this program will address the skills gaps identified in their sectors, particularly in middle and upper-level management roles. The program is strategically designed to meet the educational needs of employed adult learners while addressing workforce gaps in Mississippi and beyond.

*Average wages:* Administrative Services Managers in Mississippi earn a median salary of \$78,000 annually according to O\*NET OnLine. General and Operations Managers in the state report median earnings of \$86,000 annually, with potential increases based on industry and experience. First-Line Supervisors of Production Workers in the state report median earnings of \$66,278 annually, with potential increases based on industry and experience. If half of the program graduates secure roles as Administrative Services Managers and the other half as Operations Managers, their combined earnings could contribute an estimated \$6.5 million annually to the Mississippi economy. Over a five-year period, this program could generate nearly \$33 million in additional income, strengthening local economies and addressing workforce shortages.

**D. MSU – Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Early Childhood Teaching**

*CIP code:* 13.1210

*Total credit hours:* 120-122

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Incremental, five-year cost of implementation:* \$906,378

*Potential new, five-year revenue:* \$3,461,460

*Unit where academic program will be housed:* College of Education - Meridian

*Number of students expected to enroll in first five years:* 186

*Number of students expected to graduate in first five years:* 108

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*Program description:* The Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Teaching is a comprehensive undergraduate program designed to equip students with the practical skills and theoretical knowledge necessary to effectively teach students in grades Pre-K through 3rd grade. This program builds upon the AAS in Early Childhood Technology or other majors pertaining to early childhood and integrates fundamental pedagogical theory with applied strategies and tools to prepare students to provide sound and innovative instruction to Pre-K-3 students. With a focus on applied learning, students gain in-depth understanding of child development, effective classroom management techniques, curriculum design and implementation, assessment and evaluation strategies, collaboration and communication skills, as well as professionalism and ethical practices. Graduates of this program are equipped with the necessary skills and qualifications to create developmentally appropriate learning environments, engage young learners, and establish meaningful partnerships with families and colleagues. Through a combination of coursework and hands-on experiences, students will acquire the expertise required to positively impact the lives of children and make a significant contribution to the field of early childhood education. Students who successfully complete the program of study and a residency in a local school district, and earn passing scores on the required licensure exams, will exit the program with a PreK-3 MS teaching license.

*Institution(s) offering similar program(s):* None

*National and state supply and demand:* This Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Teaching is unique and the only one in the State of Mississippi. Additionally, nearby states of Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana do not have such a degree that would enable early childhood education graduates a clear and efficient pathway to get a teaching license that would better equip themselves to serve a larger range of children to meet the needs of America's classrooms.

In fall 2022, we conducted a needs assessment survey with a 70% response rate to determine institutional interest in providing a vertical alignment to their in-demand AAS degrees. The survey aimed to determine interest in the creation of various BAS majors, and we are pleased to report that there was significant interest in the Early Childhood Teaching major. All responding colleges expressed interest in a BAS degree that provides students with a clear pathway to a bachelor's degree culminating in a teaching license. These results confirmed the demand for this program and motivated us to develop a relevant BAS major that meets the needs of our partners and the state of Mississippi.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, preschool teachers are in the top 30 jobs expected to have the most growth between the years of 2021 and 2031. Preschool and kindergarten teacher jobs are expected to grow by 18.4% percent and elementary teacher jobs in general are expected to grow by 7.4% percent nationwide.

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**E. USM – Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Philosophy, Religion, and Law**

*CIP code:* 38.0001

*Total credit hours:* 120

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Incremental, five-year cost of implementation:* Program will draw on existing faculty lines and teaching loads. No new FTEs will be required.

*Unit where academic program will be housed:* School of Humanities

*Number of students expected to enroll in first five years:* 75

*Number of students expected to graduate in first five years:* 45

*Program description:* The BA in Philosophy, Religion, and Law is an online and face-to-face interdisciplinary degree providing students with foundational skills, advanced study in philosophy, religion, and law, and guided pathways leading to wide-ranging careers, advanced degrees, and the skills and self-knowledge to lead flourishing lives. These classical disciplines have become increasingly important amid the rapid technological changes of the twenty first century-especially with the development of Artificial Intelligence. Students will study topics such as the ethics of artificial intelligence technology, of the military, of healthcare; critical thinking and formal logic; philosophy of law; religion and violence; and much more. This degree program will equip students with the cultural and religious understanding necessary to assume their roles as global citizens in an increasingly interconnected world.

*Institution(s) offering similar program(s):* No other institutions in MS offer programs with this CIP code.

*National and state supply and demand:* The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook demonstrates that 59% of Philosophy and Religion majors go into five different job categories that are listed in descending order of quantity: Management Occupations, Educational Instruction and Library Occupations, Community and Social Service Occupations, Legal Occupations, Business and Financial Occupations. Although not yet appearing in labor demand statistics, Artificial Intelligence companies are hiring people with Humanities skills to train models and navigate ethical concerns. These are remote and hybrid jobs. For example, OpenAI is currently hiring an "AI Abuse and Threat Intelligence Analyst" with a job ad that speaks to what this degree program will train students to do. "We're looking for people who combine online safety experience and risk management with outstanding analytical and problem-solving skills. The ideal candidate will be able to clearly articulate complex abuse concepts and collaborate effectively with diverse technical and business teams. We value professionals dedicated to promoting the responsible use of AI." Even a simple search on Indeed.com shows multiple positions such as "Legal Researcher - AI Trainer." Crafting a new program now provides an opportunity to calibrate the programs' disciplinary strengths with the demands of society and the labor market.

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**F. USM – Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Strategic Communication – Digital Advertising**

*CIP code:* 09.0903

*Total credit hours:* 120

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Incremental, five-year cost of implementation:* Program will draw on existing faculty lines and teaching loads. No new FTEs will be required.

*Unit where academic program will be housed:* School of Media and Communication

*Number of students expected to enroll in first five years:* 95

*Number of students expected to graduate in first five years:* 79

*Program description:* This proposal turns the existing advertising track to a stand-alone major, which faculty have determined is necessary for its identity and to improve recruiting. The Strategic Communication program was devised three years ago in an attempt to address declining enrollment in the traditional public relations/advertising program and better align with industry trends toward a model of earned, owned, and paid media. Enrollment has further declined, with students, parents and guidance counselors anecdotally reporting that they were not aware of Strategic Communication as a field and did not know PR, Advertising, Media Sales and Organizational Communication were available tracks.

*Institution(s) offering similar program(s):* No other institutions in MS offer programs with this CIP code.

**G. USM – Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Strategic Communication – Digital Media Sales**

*CIP code:* 52.1404

*Total credit hours:* 120

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Incremental, five-year cost of implementation:* Program will draw on existing faculty lines and teaching loads. No new FTEs will be required.

*Unit where academic program will be housed:* School of Media and Communication

*Number of students expected to enroll in first five years:* 70

*Number of students expected to graduate in first five years:* 56

*Program description:* This proposal turns the existing media sales track to a stand-alone major, which faculty have determined is necessary for its identity and to improve recruiting. The Strategic Communication program was devised three years ago in an attempt to address declining enrollment in our traditional PR/AD program and better align with industry trends toward a model of earned, owned, and paid media. Enrollment has further declined, with students, parents and guidance counselors anecdotally reporting that they were not aware of Strategic Communication as a field and did not know of the tracks.

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*Institution(s) offering similar program(s):* No other institutions in MS offer programs with this CIP code.

**H. USM – Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Strategic Communication – Public Relations**

*CIP code:* 09.0900

*Total credit hours:* 120

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Incremental, five-year cost of implementation:* Program will draw on existing faculty lines and teaching loads. No new FTEs will be required.

*Unit where academic program will be housed:* School of Media and Communication

*Number of students expected to enroll in first five years:* 165

*Number of students expected to graduate in first five years:* 120

*Program description:* This proposal turns the existing public relations track to a stand-alone major, which faculty have determined is necessary for its identity and to improve recruiting. The Strategic Communication program was devised three years ago in an attempt to address declining enrollment in our traditional public relations/advertising program and better align with industry trends toward a model of earned, owned, and paid media. Enrollment has further declined, with students, parents and guidance counselors anecdotally reporting that they were not aware of Strategic Communication as a field did not know PR, Advertising, Media Sales and Organizational Communication were available tracks.

*Institution(s) offering similar program(s):* No other institutions in MS offer programs with this CIP code.

**I. USM – Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Graphic Design**

*CIP code:* 50.0409

*Total credit hours:* 124

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Incremental, five-year cost of implementation:* Program will draw on existing faculty lines and teaching loads. No new FTEs will be required.

*Unit where academic program will be housed:* School of Performing and Visual Arts

*Number of students expected to enroll in first five years:* 125

*Number of students expected to graduate in first five years:* 100

*Program description:* This degree program currently exists as an emphasis of the BFA in Art, and USM seeks to make this a stand-alone degree program. The Graphic Design program prepares students for professional careers as artists and designers in the field of digital communications and graphic design. The Graphic Design curriculum focuses on the development of conceptual and technical skills, creative problem-solving, and visual aesthetics. Students will learn graphic design skills and principles in identity design and

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branding, typography, package design, poster design, information design, storyboarding, advertising design, interactive web design, and motion graphics. The Graphic Design emphasis along with the current BFA in Art are accredited through the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD).

*Institution(s) offering similar program(s):* No other institutions in MS offer programs with this CIP code.

**J. USM – Bachelor of Science (BS) in Early Childhood**

*CIP code:* 19.0711

*Total credit hours:* 120

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Incremental, five-year cost of implementation:* Program will draw on existing faculty lines and teaching loads. No new FTEs will be required.

*Unit where academic program will be housed:* School of Child and Family Studies

*Number of students expected to enroll in first five years:* 290

*Number of students expected to graduate in first five years:* 245

*Program description:* This degree program currently exists as an emphasis of the BS in Child and Family Sciences, and USM seeks to make this a stand-alone degree program. Since 2019, the Child Development emphasis has produced 261 graduates. However, there has been evidence of a trending decline in enrollment over the last few years. The proposed BS in Early Childhood will assist in revitalization efforts needed to address the trending decline and adjusting marketing to better align with the job market and needs of current students.

This degree program prepares early childhood educators with child development expertise and evidence-based instructional practices needed to serve children from birth to six years old within the context of the family. Includes instruction in child abuse and neglect, child and infant growth and development, early childhood education, early childhood language and literacy, early childhood math and science, early childhood special education, family literacy, family sociology, family and marriage relations, assessment and measurement, psychology, and psychopathology.

*Institution(s) offering similar program(s):* No other institutions in MS offer programs with this CIP code.

*National and state supply and demand; Average wages:* The 2024 Mississippi Kids Count Factbook provides data supporting a clear need for early educators and early interventionists in the state of Mississippi. In the area of Childcare Availability & Workforce, the report highlights the importance of quality childcare in providing strong brain-building opportunities for infants and young children. However, there are challenges in terms of the

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availability and workforce in licensed childcare facilities. As of October 2023, there were 121,297 available licensed childcare seats in Mississippi, yet there were 153,575 children under the age of 5 who had at least one parent in the workforce. This indicates there is a demand for skilled early educators to work in these facilities. Access to high-quality early education is essential for children's development, emphasizing the need for more qualified early educators in the state. In the area of Early Intervention & Developmental Screening, the report emphasizes the importance of early intervention services for young children with developmental disabilities. However, there is a low percentage of children in Mississippi receiving Early Intervention Services. This suggests a gap in the availability of qualified early interventionists who can provide specialized support to children in need.

According to the 2024 Early Childhood Educator Workforce Executive Summary, 25% of Early Childhood teachers are 50 years old or above. This indicates that there is a need to replace early educators who will be retiring. Similarly, in the Mississippi First (2021) State of Pre-K Brief there was an estimated need for 1,100 new Pre-K licensed teachers in the state of Mississippi.

**K. USM – Bachelor of Science (BS) in Forensic Biology**

*CIP code:* 43.0402

*Total credit hours:* 120

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Incremental, five-year cost of implementation:* Program will draw on existing faculty lines and teaching loads. No new FTEs will be required.

*Unit where academic program will be housed:* School of Criminal Justice, Forensic Science, and Security

*Number of students expected to enroll in first five years:* 542

*Number of students expected to graduate in first five years:* 36

*Program description:* The Forensics BS Program is being redesigned to seek accreditation through the American Academy of Forensic Science (AAFS) Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) which accredits college-level forensic science educational programs. Utilizing FEPAC policies and procedures manual, the forensic science faculty have redesigned the program to align with accreditation standards.

Currently, a student majoring in Forensics must choose from four emphasis areas: Anthropology, Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry, or Criminal Justice. To better align USM's program to FEPAC requirements, the Forensic Science Curriculum Committee proposes the creation of three stand-alone degree programs: Forensic Biology BS, Forensic Chemistry BS, and Crime Scene Investigation BS. Some current FSC courses were modified, new courses were added, and the entire program was restructured to improve the overall robustness of the programs and prepare for FEPAC accreditation. The Forensics (Anthropology) BS program has been identified as a "sunset" program and will not be offered beginning in the Fall 2025 semester. A teach-out plan has been developed for the



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Forensics (Anthropology) BS program. Forensic science employment is highly specialized, and many forensic disciplines require specific courses to qualify for employment in that discipline. The proposed programs ensure that students will meet and exceed these employment requirements in addition to preparing our program to seek FEPAC accreditation.

*Institution(s) offering similar program(s):* No other institutions in MS offer programs with this CIP code.

*National and state supply and demand:* Graduates with a Forensic Biology BS degree will qualify for employment at the local, state, regional, and federal levels for various positions in forensic science, criminal justice, legal, and more, entities in both the public and private sectors. Typical employment includes positions as forensic scientists, serologists, DNA analysts, quality assurance management, crime scene investigations, laboratory analysts, pathology technicians, and many more.

**L. USM – Bachelor of Science (BS) in Forensic Chemistry**

*CIP code:* 40.0510

*Total credit hours:* 120

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Incremental, five-year cost of implementation:* Program will draw on existing faculty lines and teaching loads. No new FTEs will be required.

*Unit where academic program will be housed:* School of Criminal Justice, Forensic Science, and Security

*Number of students expected to enroll in first five years:* 200

*Number of students expected to graduate in first five years:* 16

*Program description:* The Forensics BS Program is being redesigned to seek accreditation through the American Academy of Forensic Science (AAFS) Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission (FEPAC) which accredits college-level forensic science educational programs. Utilizing FEPAC policies and procedures manual, the forensic science faculty have redesigned the program to align with accreditation standards.

Currently, a student majoring in Forensics must choose from four emphasis areas: Anthropology, Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry, or Criminal Justice. To better align USM's program to FEPAC requirements, the Forensic Science Curriculum Committee proposes the creation of three stand-alone degree programs: Forensic Biology BS, Forensic Chemistry BS, and Crime Scene Investigation BS. Some current FSC courses were modified, new courses were added, and the entire program was restructured to improve the overall robustness of the programs and prepare for FEPAC accreditation. The Forensics (Anthropology) BS program has been identified as a "sunset" program and will not be offered beginning in the Fall 2025 semester. A teach-out plan has been developed for the

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Forensics (Anthropology) BS program. Forensic science employment is highly specialized, and many forensic disciplines require specific courses to qualify for employment in that discipline. The proposed programs ensure that students will meet and exceed these employment requirements in addition to preparing our program to seek FEPAC accreditation.

*Institution(s) offering similar program(s):* University of Mississippi

*National and state supply and demand:* Graduates with a Forensic Chemistry BS degree will qualify for employment at the local, state, regional, and federal levels for various positions in forensic science, criminal justice, legal, and more, entities in both the public and private sectors. Typical employment includes positions as forensic scientists, toxicologists, drug analysts, quality assurance management, crime scene investigations, laboratory analysts, and many more.

**M. USM – Bachelor of Science (BS) in Secondary Education**

*CIP code:* 13.1205

*Total credit hours:* 120

*Effective date:* August 2025

*Incremental, five-year cost of implementation:* \$250,000

*Potential new, five-year revenue:* \$510,000

*Unit where academic program will be housed:* School of Education

*Number of students expected to enroll in first five years:* 165

*Number of students expected to graduate in first five years:* 70

*Program description:* The purpose of the Secondary Education BS program is to prepare high-quality, job-ready teachers for secondary grades (grades 6-12) in the state of Mississippi. In order to do that, students must gain foundational knowledge related to pedagogy, classroom management, curriculum development, assessment of learning, and their teaching discipline. Therefore, the proposed program is a balance of education and discipline-specific coursework.

*Institution(s) offering similar program(s):* Delta State University, Mississippi State University, and Mississippi Valley State University

*National and state supply and demand:* In 2023, the Mississippi Department of Education reported 2,600 teacher vacancies with 31 % of those being at the high school level. The most recent data suggests that more than three-fourths of states report a teacher shortage. Therefore, there are sufficient employment opportunities for graduates. Graduates from this degree program will be eligible to apply for a teaching license and seek employment in their respective areas in any private or public school district in Mississippi. They may also seek employment in states with licensure reciprocity.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends approval of these items.**

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1. **UMMC – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND A PRICING AND COMMITMENT AGREEMENT WITH BECTON, DICKINSON, AND COMPANY**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to amend its Pricing and Commitment Agreement with **Becton, Dickinson, and Company** (BD) to add a location for UMMC Madison. The agreement is for the purchase of dedicated and non-dedicated intravenous (IV) disposable sets, including pump sets, gravity sets, extension sets, connectors, secondary sets, and accessories. These IV disposable sets are used with UMMC’s 2,343 IV pumps used throughout its facilities. UMMC requests approval to add or remove products as needed and to amend the agreement in the instance of a change in UMMC’s group purchasing organizations (GPO) designation, or to add and remove locations as long as the change does not increase the approved expenditure level.

**Contractor’s Legal Name:** **Becton, Dickinson, and Company**

**History of Contract:** On October 20, 2022, the Board approved a five (5) year Customer Agreement with BD. The agreement will expire on October 31, 2027.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is an amendment to the Pricing and Commitment Agreement

**Purpose:** The purpose of the amendment is to add a location for UMMC Madison. The purpose of the agreement is to allow UMMC to purchase IV disposable sets at a discount in exchange for a commitment to purchase at least \$1,558,000 per year and 85% of UMMC’s total need for IV disposable sets. UMMC currently owns 2,343 CareFusion IV pumps that require use of dedicated BD IV disposable sets due to compatibility. By combining the dedicated sets and non-dedicated sets under this agreement, UMMC qualifies for a higher discount on the products.

**Scope of Work:** Under the agreement, CareFusion will provide discounted pricing for:

- Dedicated infusion disposable sets (pump sets); and
- Non-dedicated infusion disposable sets, including:
  - Gravity sets,
  - Extension sets,
  - Connectors,
  - Secondary sets, and Accessories.

Under the agreement, UMMC shall purchase at least \$1,558,000 per year and 85% of UMMC’s total need for IV disposable sets.

**Term of Contract:** The term of the agreement remains unchanged, it is five (5) years, from November 1, 2022, through October 31, 2027.

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**Termination Options:** The agreement may be terminated as follows:

- by BD, immediately if UMMC resells any BD product;
- by either party, upon (90) ninety days prior written notice;
- by either party upon written notice if the other party:
  - fails to comply with any material term of the agreement and does not cure such noncompliance within thirty (30) calendar days or ten (10) days in the case of a past due payment,
  - terminates or suspends substantially of all of its business activities, or
  - becomes subject to any bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding;
- by either party, in the instance of a force majeure event that continues for more than ninety (90) continual days; and
- by UMMC if UMMC ceases to be a member of the Vizient GPO and does not agree to non-GPO pricing.

**Contract Amount:** The total estimated cost of the agreement remains unchanged, it is \$13,150,000 over the five (5) year term. Beginning in year two (2), UMMC has included a ten percent (10%) increase for potential volume change. BD may increase prices up to five percent (5%) per year.

**Funding Source for Contract:** The contract will be funded by hospital patient revenue.  
**Contractor Selection Process:** UMMC is currently contracted with BD.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

2. **UMMC – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH BFI WASTE SERVICES, LLC dba REPUBLIC SERVICES OF JACKSON**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to amend its Solid Waste Services Agreement (Agreement) with **BFI Waste Services, LLC. d/b/a Republic Services of Jackson** (Republic) to add UMMC Madison as a location. The agreement is for the provision of solid waste removal, disposal, and recycling services at all UMMC locations in Lexington, Greenwood, Grenada, and the Jackson metro area. In addition, UMMC requests approval to amend the agreement to add and/or remove coverage locations without seeking prior Board approval as long as adequate funds are available.

**Contractor’s Legal Name:** **BFI Waste Services, LLC. d/b/a. Republic Services of Jackson**

**History of Contract:** On November 16, 2023, the Board approved a five (5) year Solid Waste Services Agreement with Republic. The agreement will expire on November 30, 2028.

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**Specific Type of Contract:** This is an amendment to the Solid Waste Services Agreement.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the amendment is to add UMMC Madison as a location. The purpose of the agreement is to provide solid waste removal, disposal, and recycling services at all UMMC locations in Lexington, Greenwood, Grenada, and the Jackson metro area.

**Scope of Work:** Under the amended Agreement, Republic will:

- provide approximate sized dumpsters/compactors (containers) at designated UMMC sites;
- remove and dispose of the waste from containers on a specified regular schedule;
- repair and maintain the containers as necessary;
- haul the recyclable materials to a recycle facility; and
- work with UMMC to adjust schedules for removal of waste as may be necessary for any specific UMMC site.

UMMC will provide the following:

- appropriate electrical outlets for all compactors;
- appropriate access locations for containers; and
- adjustment of removal schedules as appropriate.

**Term of Contract:** The term of the agreement remains unchanged. It is five (5) years, from December 1, 2023, through November 30, 2028.

**Termination Options:** Termination options include the following:

- failure by Republic to comply with the federal e-verify program;
- by UMMC with or without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice to Republic;
- by UMMC upon Republic's breach of the agreement and failure to cure the breach within ten (10) days;
- immediately upon Republic's breach of any of the following ongoing representations and warranties that Republic, its officers, directors and employees:
  - are not currently excluded, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in any federal health care programs or any state healthcare programs;
  - have not been convicted of a criminal offense related to the provision of healthcare items or services and have not been excluded, debarred, or otherwise declared ineligible to participate in the Federal Healthcare Programs or any state healthcare programs,
  - are not, nor have ever been included on the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Specially Designed Nationals and Blocked Persons list;

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- are not, to the best of its knowledge, under investigation or otherwise aware of any circumstances which may result in Republic being excluded from participating in the Federal Healthcare Programs or any state healthcare programs; and
- if Republic is to receive any patients' personal health information, Republic represents and warrants that it has implemented safeguards to ensure that the privacy and confidentiality of patients' personal health information is protected;
- by UMMC upon thirty (30) days' written notice in the event of a reduction in available funds or no funds; and
- upon written notice in the event a change in law results in adverse consequences and the parties cannot agree upon renegotiated terms within thirty (30) days.

**Contract Amount:** The estimated cost of the amended agreement over the five (5) year term is \$6,400,000. The original estimated cost was \$5,900,000. UMMC would like to add \$500,000 over the remainder of the term.

**Funding Source for Contract:** The contract will be funded by general funds.

**Contractor Selection Process:** UMMC is currently contracted with Republic.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

**3. SYSTEM-REQUEST TO ENTER INTO A STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY WITH UNITEDHEALTHCARE STUDENT RESOURCES dba UNITEDHEALTHCARE**

**Agenda Item Request:** The Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning's Executive Office (IHL) requests approval of a student health insurance policy for use by the system. The insurer will be **UnitedHealthcare Student Resources**.

**Contractor's Legal Name:** **United Healthcare Student Resources** ("UnitedHealthcare"). IHL's broker for this line of coverage is Holland Insurance.

**History of Contract:** This is a renewal of the current policy.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is a contract for student health insurance.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the contract is to provide an insurance option for students to purchase directly, or for universities to purchase as a benefit for certain classes of student workers or employees. The goal of the system approach is to lower premium costs while maintaining health insurance coverage that meets Affordable Care Act and visa requirements. The system SHIP has been utilized primarily by Mississippi State, Ole Miss, and USM, although it is available to all system students. The recommended policy

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provides gold-level coverage with an in-network annual deductible of \$250. UnitedHealthcare is rated “A+” by A.M. Best Company. The quote also includes optional dental and vision coverage, which students may elect to purchase.

**Scope of Work:** The insurer will provide student health insurance coverage and related services during the policy year in exchange for the payment of premiums by students or universities. The policy will be available for students at all system universities with the exception of UMMC, which maintains its own student health insurance program.

**Term of Contract:** The policy terms may vary from university to university so as to have an effective date that coincides with the termination dates of each university’s current policies. The most common policy inception date has been August 15<sup>th</sup>, so while dates may vary, a common term is expected to be August 15, 2023, to August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**Termination Options:** The insurance coverage requires receipt of premium payments and premiums can only be refunded in the situation where the insured enters the armed forces. There are not other termination options for either party, other than the termination date of the policy.

**Contract Amount:** The premium will be \$2,314 per policy per year for a student, a student’s spouse, or one child, which includes broker commission and all fees. The premium for two or more children is \$4,228. If 3,050 participants are insured, the aggregate annual premium range would be approximately \$6,942,000. The aggregate premium will vary based upon the number of participants. Enrollment for 2023-2024 totals 3,017.

**Funding Source for Contract:** Students will directly pay the premium for their policy, except for some student workers. Universities may elect to pay or supplement the premium cost for certain classes of student workers, such as graduate assistants, as an employment benefit or part of its payment structure. Expenditures for student health insurance by universities are determined by each university.

**Contractor Selection Process:** In 2023, IHL conducted a competitive RFP process which utilized a Student Health Insurance Committee to select Holland Insurance Company as our broker for a three-year term. Our broker approached markets for quotes, including Aetna, UnitedHealthCare, and Wellfleet. The UnitedHealthcare quote had the lowest premium.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

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**4. UMMC- REQUEST TO ENTER INTO A MEDICAL OFFICE BUILDING LEASE WITH ALLRED INVESTMENTS, LLC**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to enter into a Medical Office Building Lease with **Allred Investments, LLC** (Allred) for 3,000 square feet of clinic space located at 4713 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. Meridian, MS 39305. This lease will provide improved space for pediatric specialty services to patients in the Meridian area and will allow UMMC to continue its mission of providing high standards of medical education to physicians across our state . Pursuant to Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) policy 707.03 *Approval of Prepayment for Goods or Services*, UMMC also requests a waiver to allow prepayment of the monthly rent in advance.

**Contractor’s Legal Name: Allred Investments, LLC**

**History of Contract:** UMMC has leased clinic space in Meridian, MS, since 2018. The space has been used for numerous pediatric specialties operating in the space on a time-share basis, including cardiology, neurology, orthopedics, endocrinology, hematology/oncology, child development, and rheumatology. Additionally, UMMC provided telehealth services for pediatric patients in urology, child development, and mental health and genetics. UMMC has outgrown the current space and looked at multiple locations in Meridian to relocate the clinic. The new building located at 4713 26<sup>th</sup> Ave. was deemed the optimum location for the new clinic. The current lease expires on November 4, 2025.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is a new Medical Office Building Lease.

**Purpose:** The purpose of the lease is to lease 3,000 square feet of clinic space located at 4713 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Meridian, MS 39305, for use as a full-time pediatric specialty clinic. UMMC will provide pediatric specialty services such as ENT, general surgery cardiology, orthopedics, pulmonology, child safe therapy, hematology/oncology, as well as space for educational training and development for students.

**Scope of Work:** Under the lease, Allred will:

- Lease 3,000 square feet of clinic space to UMMC; and
- Provide all maintenance required to keep the building and premises in good order, condition, and repair.

UMMC will pay all utilities, janitorial, and waste management directly to the applicable service providers.

**Term of Contract:** The lease shall become effective on May 1, 2025 and expire ten (10) years from the lease term start date of November 1, 2025. The expiration date is October 31, 2035.



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**Termination Options:** The lease may be terminated as follows:

- by UMMC in the event Allred causes any utility service interruption lasting longer than 30 consecutive days;
- by UMMC in the event of a partial destruction of the premises and Allred does not elect to make repairs or if the repairs cannot be made timely;
- by either party in the event of a total destruction of the building; automatically if the whole of the premises or building or so much thereof as to render the balance unusable by UMMC shall be taken under power of eminent domain, condemnation or by deed in lieu of foreclosure or otherwise;
- by UMMC in the event of a partial taking under power of eminent domain, by giving Allred written notice within 30 days after UMMC's receipt of written notice of such partial taking;
- by either party in the event the other party commits an act of default under the lease, by giving the defaulting party at least ten (10) days' prior written notice;
- by either party in the event any legislation, regulation or government policy is passed or adopted, the effect of which would cause either party to be in violation of such laws due to the existence of any provision of the lease, and the parties fail to agree upon modified terms within 90 days;
- by UMMC immediately upon Allred's breach of any of the following ongoing representations and warranties that it:
  - is not currently excluded, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in any federal health care programs or any state healthcare programs;
  - has not been convicted of a criminal offense related to the provision of healthcare items or services and have not been excluded, debarred, or otherwise declared ineligible to participate in the Federal Healthcare Programs or any state healthcare programs; and
  - is not under investigation or otherwise aware of any circumstances which may result in the party being excluded from participation in the Federal Healthcare Programs or any state healthcare programs;
- in the event of a reduction in funds;
- by either party in the event of an adverse change in law and the parties fail to agree upon modified terms within 60 days; and
- by UMMC with or without cause upon thirty (30) days' written notice to Allred.

**Contract Amount:** The estimated total cost of the lease is \$1,050,000 over the ten (10) year term. The base rent is \$22.00 per square foot, which remains firm throughout the term of the lease.

**Funding Source for Contract:** The lease will be funded by patient revenue.

**Contractor Selection Process:** After evaluating multiple options for a new clinic in the Meridian area, UMMC determined this building is the optimum location for its operations for both patient care and educational training.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

**5. UMMC –REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND A PURCHASE AND REBATE AGREEMENT WITH BAXTER HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**Agenda Item Request:** The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to amend its Purchase and Rebate Agreement with **Baxter Healthcare Corporation** (Baxter) to add UMMC Madison and revise the Vizient contract number along with the committed volume requirements. The agreement is for the provision of Intravenous (IV) products which include: solution/fluid products, nutritional products, and drug delivery systems. UMMC also requests approval to add or remove products and locations from the agreement, including by amendment, if required by the vendor without seeking prior Board approval as long as it does not increase the approved expenditure level.

**Contractor’s Legal Name: Baxter Healthcare Corporation**

**History of Contract:** On November 16, 2023, the Board approved a five (5) year agreement with Baxter for IV products. The agreement will expire on December 31, 2028.

**Specific Type of Contract:** This is the first amendment to the Purchase and Rebate Agreement.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this amendment is to add UMMC Madison and revise the Vizient contract number along with the Committed Volume Forecast. The purpose of this agreement is to allow UMMC to purchase IV products used in patient care. The IV products include: solution/fluid products, nutritional products, and drug delivery systems. Based upon expected purchase volumes, as well as other factors, UMMC qualifies for reduced pricing and will qualify for various rebate options which will result in annual payments to UMMC.

**Scope of Work:** Under the amended agreement, Baxter will continue to provide the following:

- IV products at the reduced qualifying tier pricing; and
- rebates on the volume of products purchased.

Under the amended agreement, UMMC will continue to:

- commit to purchase from Baxter no less than ninety percent (90%) of its total utilization of the products each agreement year; and
- agree to buy the commodities for its own use.

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**Term of Contract:** The term of the agreement remains unchanged. It is sixty (60) months from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2028.

**Termination Options:** The termination options include the following:

- by UMMC, if upon ninety (90) days prior written notification to Supplier of UMMC's participation under a New GPO Agreement between Vizient and Baxter, on the effective date of participation under the New GPO Agreement; and
- in the event of insufficient funds.

**Contract Amount:** The total estimated cost of the amended agreement over the sixty (60) month term remains unchanged at \$22,650,000.

**Funding Source for Contract:** The contract will be funded by hospital patient revenue.

**Contractor Selection Process:** UMMC is currently contracted with Baxter.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

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**Note:** Project numbers beginning with the prefix "GS" designate projects that the Bureau of Building provides management oversight for and are funded partially or wholly with state Bureau of Building bond revenues. Project numbers beginning with the prefix "IHL" designate projects that are funded from university self-generated sources including but not limited to donations, fees, and grants.

**APPROVAL OF INITIATIONS OF PROJECTS/APPOINTMENTS OF PROFESSIONALS**

**IHL PROJECTS .....**

**1. MUW – IHL 204-139 – ATHLETIC TRAINING FACILITY**

**Project Request:** Mississippi University for Women requests approval to initiate a project, Athletic Training Facility, and to appoint PryorMorrow, PC as the design professional.

**Proposed Design Professional:** PryorMorrow PC

**Selection Method:** The project budget is not anticipated to exceed \$3M therefore it is not required that the university use the RFQ method for selection of the design professional.

**Insurance Coverage:** The firm carries errors and omissions coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000 per claim and \$2,000,000 aggregate.

**Purpose:** Mississippi University for Women is seeking to initiate the project and appoint the design professional as required by Board Policy for preplanning only. This will allow the university to proceed with the design phase of the project for an athletic training facility

**Project Scope:** The project is for preplanning services for an Athletics Training Facility. The project would include the preplanning for an open-air training facility for multiple outdoor sports to utilize.

Mississippi University for Women is seeking to initiate the project and appoint the design professional in accordance with Board Policy §904(A), Board Approval, that requires each institution to bring all new projects to the Board for the approval of the project initiation and the appointment of a design professional, as required in Board Policy §902, Initiation of Construction Projects.

**Project Initiation Date:** April 17, 2025

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**Date of Original Construction:** N/A

**Date of Last Renovation:** N/A

**Project Budget: (Design Fees Only)**

		<u>Estimated</u>
Construction Cost:	\$	0.00
Architectural and Engineering Fees:		200,000.00
Misc. Project Costs:		0.00
Furniture & Equipment Costs:		0.00
Contingency:		<u>0.00</u>
<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>200,000.00</b>

**Funding Source(s):** Foundation Funds (\$200,000)

**Staff Recommendation:** Board staff recommends approval of this item.

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1. **SYSTEM – INTENT TO OFFER CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

- A. **JSU** – Certificate program title: **Data Science and AI for Cybersecurity**  
Responsible academic unit: College of Science, Engineering and Technology,  
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering and Computer Science  
Level: pre-baccalaureate  
Total credit hours: 18  
CIP code: 30.7099  
Effective date: May 2024  
Program summary: This certificate program is a unique approach for workforce development that could pave the way for these graduates to be qualified enough for seeking jobs in the Data Science/AI/Cybersecurity areas.
- B. **UM** – Certificate program title: **Elementary Education K-6**  
Responsible academic unit: School of Education  
Level: post-baccalaureate  
Total credit hours: 15  
CIP code: 13.1202  
Effective date: August 2025  
Program summary: This certificate program provides a structured pathway for secondary teachers seeking to add an Elementary K-6 Endorsement to their teaching license. The program is designed for licensed secondary (7-12) educators with a 5-year standard renewable license and at least three years of teaching experience. Educators completing this coursework will also be required by MDE to pass the Foundations of Reading Test to earn the K-6 Endorsement.
- C. **UM** – Certificate program title: **Medical Cannabis**  
Responsible academic unit: School of Pharmacy, Department of BioMolecular Sciences  
Level: post-baccalaureate  
Total credit hours: 12  
CIP code: 51.2005  
Effective date: August 2026  
Program summary: This certificate program is designed for working professionals in the healthcare, medical, and public health industries. This program will be offered in an online format.

2. **USM – INTENT TO OFFER EXISTING DEGREE PROGRAMS BY DISTANCE LEARNING**

Board Policy 509 states: “*All distance learning courses and programs shall be in accord with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Principles of Accreditation and Council of Regional Accrediting Commissions Interregional Guidelines for the Evaluation of Distance Education.*”

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*Unless otherwise provided, all Board and university policies, standards, and guidelines for on and off campus instruction apply to distance learning.”*

In accordance with Board policy, the University of Southern Mississippi submits the intent to offer already approved degree programs by distance learning to the Board for information.

A. Degree program title: **Bachelor of Science (BS) in Applied Economics**

CIP code, sequence: 45.0603, 5535

Total credit hours: 120

Cost to offer by distance learning: \$0 (cost is offset by online course fee)

Effective date: August 2025

B. Degree program title: **Bachelor of Science (BS) in Sustainability Sciences**

CIP code, sequence: 30.3301, 5901

Total credit hours: 120

Cost to offer by distance learning: \$0 (cost is offset by online course fee)

Effective date: August 2025

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends these items be accepted as information.**

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1. **SYSTEM – MISSISSIPPI INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**  
**AMENDMENT TO THE SOFTWARE LICENSE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**SYSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, INC. (ESRI)**

Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (MS-ITS) is acting as contracting agent for the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) and is entering into an amendment with Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). Attorney General's staff assigned to the MS-ITS reviewed the agreement prior to execution. This second amendment is for an additional one year of Software License Agreement through February 22, 2026, for an additional \$115,000. The total estimated contract cost with this amendment is \$805,000.

See Exhibit 1.



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**SYSTEM: REAL ESTATE ITEMS APPROVED SUBSEQUENT TO THE  
MARCH 20, 2025, BOARD MEETING SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

**NOTE: THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE APPROVED BY THE BOARD'S REAL ESTATE AND FACILITIES STAFF IN ACCORDANCE WITH BOARD POLICY §904(A) BOARD APPROVAL:**

**Change Order Approval Note: No change orders approved by Board staff, as reflected within any of the following informational agenda items, increase the Board approved total project budget. The total project budget as approved by the Board provides for a contingency fund, which allows for an increase in the construction budget of between five and ten percent. Any increase in the total project budget caused by a change order, would require Board approval and could not be approved by Board staff until the budget increase is approved by the Board.**

**A L C O R N   S T A T E   U N I V E R S I T Y**

**1. ASU-GS 101-333 – WHITNEY COMPLEX RENOVATION AND EXPANSION**

**Approval Request #1: Schematic Design Documents**

Board staff approved the Schematic Design Documents as submitted by CDFL Architects & Engineers, P.A.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 28, 2025

Project Initiation Date: June 15, 2023

Design Professional: CDFL Architects & Engineers, P.A.

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$24,509,236.00

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**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY**

**2. MSU-IHL 205-320B – PATTERSON ENGINEERING IDEE LAB PH2**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #3**

Board staff approved Change Order #3 in the amount of \$75,111.00 and thirty-three (33) additional days to the contract of Craddock Construction Company.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 28, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #3 includes the following: rough-in drain and ventilation lines; install vent hood; and thirty-three (33) days to the contract.

Change Order Justification: This change was necessary due to user/owner requested modification; and days for work as indicated herein.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Three (3) change orders for a total amount of \$280,154.70.

Project Initiation Date: August 18, 2022

Design Professional: CDFL Architects + Engineers

General Contractor: Craddock Construction Company

Phased Project Budget: \$2,500,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$5,000,000.00

**3. MSU-IHL 205-328 – NEW RESIDENCE HALL (AZALEA)**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #3**

Board staff approved Change Order #3 in the amount of \$173,342.00 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Roy Anderson Corp.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, April 3, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #3 includes the following: electrical and low voltage changes to fire alarm system; add power for trash chute air compressor; replace a non-rated door frame with a 90 minute fire door frame; additional structural steel to

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accommodate the building expansion joint; add upper bolts and boots to transfer loads along shear walls; add a heavy disconnect to the sprinkler system jockey pump; startup costs for main switchboard; and modify the acoustical ceiling baffles in the first floor lounge.

Change Order Justification: This change was necessary due to user/owner requested modification; and errors and omissions in plans and specifications.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Three (3) change orders for a total amount of \$390,629.00.

Project Initiation Date: October 25, 2022

Design Professional: Wier Boerner Allin Architecture

CMA: Hoar Program Management

General Contractor: Roy Anderson Corporation

Phased Project Budget: \$89,802,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$103,500,000.00

**4. MSU-IHL 205-347 – MAGRUDER HALL REPAIRS & RENOVATIONS**

**Approval Request #1: Design Development Documents**

Board staff approved the Design Development Documents as submitted by Burris/Wagnon Architects, P.A.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 28, 2025

Project Initiation Date: October 19, 2023

Design Professional: Burris/Wagnon Architects, P.A.

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$125,000.00 (Design Fees Only)

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**5. MSU-IHL 205-349 – ETHEREDGE HALL REPAIRS & RENOVATIONS**

**Approval Request #1: Design Development Documents**

Board staff approved the Design Development Documents as submitted by Dunaway Williams Architects.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 28, 2025

Project Initiation Date: October 19, 2023

Design Professional: Dunaway Williams Architects

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$175,000.00 (Design Fees Only)

**6. MSU-IHL 205-350 – CARPENTER HALL REPAIRS & RENOVATIONS**

**Approval Request #1: Schematic Design Documents**

Board staff approved the Schematic Design Documents as submitted by Architecture South, P.A.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 28, 2025

Project Initiation Date: October 19, 2023

Design Professional: Architecture South, P.A.

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$150,000.00 (Design Fees Only)

**7. MSU-IHL 205-359A – WISE CENTER-FARM ANIMAL HOSPITAL**

**Approval Request #1: Schematic Design Documents**

Board staff approved the Schematic Design Documents as submitted by Eley Guild Hardy, P.A.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 28, 2025

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Project Initiation Date: October 17, 2024  
Design Professional: Eley Guild Hardy, P.A.  
General Contractor: TBD  
Phased Project Budget: \$18,000,000.00  
Total Project Budget: \$33,000,000.00

**8. MSU-IHL 405-003B – COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE ART & DESIGN  
(HOWELL HALL)**

**Approval Request #1: Contract Documents**

Board staff approved Contract Documents as submitted by Belinda Stewart Architects & Wier Boerner Allin Architects (Joint Venture).

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, April 3, 2025

**Approval Request #2: Advertise**

Board staff approved request to advertise for receipt of bids.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, April 3, 2025

Project Initiation Date: August 19, 2021  
Design Professional: Belinda Stewart Architects & Wier Boerner Allin Architects (Joint Venture)  
General Contractor: TBD  
Total Project Budget: \$35,732,500.00

**MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN**

**9. MUW- GS 104-210 – KINCANNON BATHROOM RENOVATIONS (JOC)**

**Approval Request #1: Contract Documents**

Board staff approved Contract Documents as submitted by Shafer Zahner Zahner.

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Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 31, 2025

**Approval Request #2 (INTERIM):** In accordance with Board Policy §904 (B) Board Approval, *Interim Chair Approval* was granted by Mr. Greg Rader, Chair of the Real Estate and Facilities Committee on April 2, 2025, to approve the budget increase from \$1,100,000.00 to \$1,300,000.00 for an increase of \$200,000.00.

Interim Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, April 2, 2025

Project Initiation Date: February 20, 2025

Design Professional: Shafer Zahner Zahner

General Contractor: Brown and Root

Total Project Budget: \$1,300,000.00

**MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY**

**10. MVSU-GS 106-269 – STUDENT UNION EXPANSION & RENOVATIONS**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #5**

Board staff approved Change Order #5 in the amount of \$268,912.58 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Richard Womack Construction.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 12, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #5 includes the following: FedEx building renovation; add conduits for east canopy lights; relocate storefront door for east entry; revise vestibule roof to a modified bituminous roofing system; change roof expansion joints to comply with roof warranty; and rework existing boiler.

Change Order Justification: This change was necessary due to user/owner requested modification.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Five (5) change orders for a total amount of \$1,537,783.60.

Project Initiation Date: March 18, 2021

Design Professional: McCarty Architects

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General Contractor: Richard Womack Construction  
Total Project Budget: \$25,755,000.00

**11. MVSU-GS 106-281 – DEMOLISH LEFLORE HALL AND DELTA HALL**

**Approval Request #1: Schematic Design Documents**

Board staff approved the Schematic Design Documents as submitted by Shafer Zahner Zahner.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 24, 2025

**Approval Request #2: Waiver Design Development Documents**

Board staff approved the Waiver of Design Development Documents as submitted by Shafer Zahner Zahner.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 24, 2025

Project Initiation Date: January 18, 2024  
Design Professional: Shafer Zahner Zahner  
General Contractor: TBD  
Total Project Budget: \$2,500,000.00

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI**

**12. UM-IHL 207-473.2 (PH 2) FIELD – OLE MISS SOFTBALL COMPLEX  
ADDITION & RENOVATION (PKG B)**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #4**

Board staff approved Change Order #4 in the amount of \$125,802.95 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of DC Services, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 13, 2025

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Change Order Description: Change Order #4 includes the following: change fencing and gates from phase 4 to phase 2; add additional storm drain inlets to south side of stadium.

Change Order Justification: This change was necessary due to latent job site conditions.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Four (4) change orders for a total amount of \$968,726.60.

Project Initiation Date: March 16, 2023

Design Professional: McCarty Architects, P.A.

CMA: ICM, LLC.

General Contractor: DC Services, LLC

Phased Project Budget: \$7,659,350.04

Total Project Budget: \$33,250,000.00

**13. UM-IHL 207-473.4 (PH 4) STADIUM – OLE MISS SOFTBALL COMPLEX  
ADDITION & RENOVATION (PKG Q)**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #1**

Board staff approved Change Order #1 in the amount of \$46,421.82 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Blue Water Architectural Products.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 13, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #1 includes the following: modify door and hardware items; add a 45-minute rated door at elevator control room.

Change Order Justification: This change was necessary due to user/owner requested modification; and errors and omissions in plans and specifications.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: One (1) change order for a total amount of \$46,421.82.

Project Initiation Date: March 16, 2023

Design Professional: McCarty Architects, P.A.

CMA: ICM, LLC.

General Contractor: Blue Water Architectural Products



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Phased Project Budget: \$19,095,146.42  
Total Project Budget: \$33,250,000.00

**14. UM-IHL 207-473.4 (PH 4) STADIUM – OLE MISS SOFTBALL COMPLEX  
ADDITION & RENOVATION (PKG V)**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #1**

Board staff approved Change Order #1 in the amount of \$2,799.22 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Fireline, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 13, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #1 includes the following: add fire sprinkler in elevator control room.

Change Order Justification: This change was necessary due to latent job site conditions.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: One (1) change order for a total amount of \$2,799.22.

Project Initiation Date: March 16, 2023  
Design Professional: McCarty Architects, P.A.  
CMA: ICM, LLC.  
General Contractor: Fireline, Inc  
Phased Project Budget: \$19,095,146.42  
Total Project Budget: \$33,250,000.00

**15. UM-IHL 207-473.4 (PH 4) STADIUM – OLE MISS SOFTBALL COMPLEX  
ADDITION & RENOVATION (PKG W)**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #5**

Board staff approved Change Order #5 in the amount of \$1,590.36 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Upchurch Plumbing, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 13, 2025

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Change Order Description: Change Order #5 includes the following: add two (2) fire dampers at duct for elevator control closet.

Change Order Justification: This change was necessary due to latent job site conditions.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Five (5) change orders for a total amount of \$501,384.49.

Project Initiation Date: March 16, 2023

Design Professional: McCarty Architects, P.A.

CMA: ICM, LLC.

General Contractor: Upchurch Plumbing, Inc.

Phased Project Budget: \$19,095,146.42

Total Project Budget: \$33,250,000.00

**16. UM-IHL 207-473.4 (PH 4) STADIUM – OLE MISS SOFTBALL COMPLEX  
ADDITION & RENOVATION (PKG X)**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #5**

Board staff approved Change Order #5 in the amount of \$5,547.50 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Advance Electric Co, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 13, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #5 includes the following: add receptacle and disconnect for irrigation controller; add quad receptacle for scouts at field wall behind home plate; add raceway for outfield speaker.

Change Order Justification: This change was necessary due to user/owner requested modification; and latent job site conditions.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Five (5) change orders for a total amount of \$501,384.49.

Project Initiation Date: March 16, 2023

Design Professional: McCarty Architects, P.A.

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CMA: ICM, LLC.

General Contractor: Advance Electric Co, Inc.

Phased Project Budget: \$19,095,146.42

Total Project Budget: \$33,250,000.00

**17. UM-IHL 207-513 – SOC 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR PSYCHOLOGY RENOVATION**

**Approval Request #1: Award of Construction Contract**

Board staff approved the Award of Contract in the amount of \$1,569,154.00 to the apparent low bidder Artizan Constructors.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 10, 2025

Project Initiation Date: April 18, 2024

Design Professional: McCarty Architects, P.A.

General Contractor: Artizan Constructors

Total Project Budget: \$3,371,175.00

**18. UM-IHL 207-516 – PHI DELTA THETA RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS**

**Approval Request #1 (INTERIM):** In accordance with Board Policy §904 (B) Board Approval, *Interim Chair Approval* was granted by Mr. Greg Rader, Chair of the Real Estate and Facilities Committee on April 2, 2025, to approve the exterior design as submitted by Wier Boerner Allin Architecture, PLLC.

Interim Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, April 2, 2025

**19. UM-IHL 407-003 – PHASE II UPGRADE HVAC CONTROLS - NATURAL PRODUCTS & FASER**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #2**

Board staff approved Change Order #2 in the amount of \$60,022.78 and forty-five (45) additional days to the contract of Upchurch Services, LLC.

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Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 12, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #2 includes the following: repair sheetrock and paint in lab B047; install owner provided exhaust valves; change out thermostat with stainless-steel temperature sensor; replace ten (10) damaged Phoenix valves; and forty-five (45) additional days to the contract.

Change Order Justification: These changes are necessary due to latent job site conditions; use/owner requested modification; and days for work as indicated herein.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Two (2) change orders for a total amount of \$53,927.78.

Project Initiation Date: January 19, 2023

Design Professional: DBES, LLC

General Contractor: Upchurch Services, LLC

Total Project Budget: \$5,300,000.00

**20. UM-IHL 407-011 – EARLY LEARNING AND EVALUATION CENTER**

**Approval Request #1: Contract Documents**

Board staff approved Contract Documents as submitted by McCarty Architects, P.A.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 14, 2025

**Approval Request #2: Advertise**

Board staff approved request to advertise for receipt of bids.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 14, 2025

Project Initiation Date: June 15, 2023

Design Professional: McCarty Architects, P.A.

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$32,775,000.00

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**UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER**

**21. UMMC-IHL 209-566 – DAY SURGERY AND PATIENT CARE UNITS  
EXPANSION**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #3**

Board staff approved Change Order #3 in the amount of \$150,118.50 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Flagstar Construction Services, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 13, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #3 includes the following: add floor drains; add fire rated plywood on all rooms in data rooms; add RFT in ICU; deduct for signage credit; provide 77 hours of fire watch at \$40/hr; add fire rated plywood on all walls in CLN Supp rooms; add more access controls; include new and existing mechanical devices to be monitored by fire alarm system; add plaster finish to three existing columns in MedSurg; add six fire extinguishers and cabinets; add fire rated 8 foot AFF on all walls in MedSurg; add pressure sensors in isolation rooms; work in revising Hegis room numbers; add LVT in ICU and MedSurg rooms; add ramps to elevator door locations; install owner furnished patient bed receptacle adapters to headwalls; add 32 framed mirrors; and add 4 dual contact relays.

Change Order Justification: These changes are necessary due to latent job site conditions; use/owner requested modification; errors and omissions in plans and specifications; and changes in requirements or recommendations by governmental agencies.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Three (3) change orders for a total amount of \$923,848.82.

Project Initiation Date: April 19, 2018

Design Professional: ESA Architects

General Contractor: Flagstar Construction Services, Inc.

Total Project Budget: \$23,730,000.00

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**22. UMMC-IHL 209-579 - UMMC COLONY PARK**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #13**

Board staff approved Change Order #13 in the amount of \$248,522.72 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Codaray Construction, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 13, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #13 includes the following: add power to fire-smoke dampers; increase lighting at loading dock; add masonry support angles to exterior brick above lower roof; additional steel support under air handler units; and omit flooring under millwork.

Change Order Justification: This change was necessary due to errors and omissions in plans and specifications; and user/owner requested modification.

**Approval Request #2: Change Order #14**

Board staff approved Change Order #14 in the amount of \$204,886.11 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Codaray Construction, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 20, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #14 includes the following: new feeder circuit for the MRI chiller; add 6 Unistrut frames for overhead lights in the cast room and a frame for the PET CT camera; add a circuit breaker for each humidifier in the rooftop AHUs; add steel support for elevators; and a monetary deposit for an alternate 2000-amp switchboard.

Change Order Justification: This change was necessary due to errors and omissions in plans and specifications; and latent job site conditions.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Fourteen (14) change orders for a total amount of \$3,825,571.71.

Project Initiation Date: June 16, 2022

Design Professional: Cooke Douglas Farr Lemons Architects & Engineers

General Contractor: Codaray Construction, LLC

Total Project Budget: \$105,910,527.00

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**23. UMMC-IHL 209-586 – NEW BURN UNIT**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #1**

Board staff approved Change Order #1 in the amount of \$171,111.09 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Fountain Construction.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 13, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #1 includes the following: add HVAC controls; additional plumbing and framing in patient toilet rooms.

Change Order Justification: This change was necessary due to user/owner requested modification.

**Approval Request #2: Change Order #2**

Board staff approved Change Order #2 in the amount of \$20,499.68 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Fountain Construction.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 24, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #2 includes the following: electrical work for three fire smoke dampers; rework to accommodate owner purchased headwalls; patch and repair existing damaged walls; additional CAT6 cabling; and additional fire caulking.

Change Order Justification: This change was necessary due to user/owner requested modification; and latent job site conditions.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Two (2) change orders for a total amount of \$191,610.77.

Project Initiation Date: June 15, 2023

Design Professional: Smith Group

General Contractor: Fountain Construction

Total Project Budget: \$6,300,000.00

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**24. UMMC-IHL 409-003 – CAMPUS EMERGENCY SYSTEM UPGRADES**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #4**

Board staff approved Change Order #4 in the amount of \$64,933.91 and three hundred thirty-four (334) additional days to the contract of Fountain Construction Company, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 13, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #4 includes the following: modify 1600-amp Zennith controls; replace ATS-12 controllers; re-feed medical air and vacuum skids; remove and dispose of existing generators; credit for unused diesel fuel; and days for work as indicated herein.

Change Order Justification: These changes are necessary due to user/owner requested modification; and three hundred thirty-four (334) days to the contract.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Four (4) change orders for a total amount of \$166,422.40.

Project Initiation Date: November 16, 2017

Design Professional: CDFL Architects

General Contractor: Fountain Construction Company, Inc.

Total Project Budget: \$6,700,000.00

**25. UMMC-IHL 409-005 – NEW SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**Approval Request #1: Change Order #2**

Board staff approved Change Order #2 in the amount of \$147,020.30 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of AnderCorp LLC.

Approval Status & Date: APPROVED, March 13, 2025

Change Order Description: Change Order #2 includes the following: additional soil removal for storm drainage; costs to relocate CSpire fiber; costs to relocate gas line; additional soil removal at south entrance; add geotextile material at south entrance; additional soil removal at north entrance; removal of additional asbestos material.



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Change Order Justification: These changes are necessary due to latent job site conditions.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Two (2) change orders for a total amount of \$202,795.32.

Project Initiation Date: January 19, 2023

Design Professional: Eley Guild Hardy Architects

General Contractor: AnderCorp LLC

Total Project Budget: \$6,700,000.00

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**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 Butler|Snow (statements dated 1/30/25, 1/30/25 and 2/21/25) from the funds of Jackson State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$4,243.50, \$586.50 and \$483.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with an immigration/labor certification matter.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 5,313.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statements dated 3/3/25, 3/3/25, 3/3/25, 3/14/25, 3/21/25, 3/21/25 and 3/25/25) from the funds of Jackson State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$36.19, \$27.20, \$27.20, \$3,710.00, \$3,710.00, \$3,710.00 and \$2,805.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with an immigration/labor certification matter.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 14,025.59**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Brunini, PLLC (statements dated 2/19/25 and 3/12/25) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$7,322.43 and \$525.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 7,847.43**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush (statement dated 3/24/25) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$1,932.00, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,932.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mitchell McNutt (statement dated 3/18/25) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$750.00, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 750.00**

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Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statement dated 3/3/25) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$2,500.00, represents services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 2,500.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Lightfoot Franklin White LLC (statement dated 3/11/25) from the funds of Mississippi Valley State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$6,077.00, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 6,077.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Kaplan Kirsch, LLP (statement dated 3/14/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$237.50, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 237.50**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Lightfoot Franklin White LLC (statement dated 3/11/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$2,935.50, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 2,935.50**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statements dated 3/3/25 and 3/3/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$2,650.00 and \$535.00, represent services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 3,185.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 7/25/24, 1/10/25, 1/10/25, 1/17/25, 1/17/25, 1/17/25, 1/17/25, 1/17/25, 1/17/25, 1/17/25, 1/17/25, 1/24/25, 1/29/25 and 1/29/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$96.00, \$1,035.00, \$33.00, \$4,036.50, \$7,634.80, \$697.10, \$35,269.10, \$2,591.10, \$1,555.20, \$5,314.05, \$140.00, \$94.50 and \$7,452.55, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 65,948.90**

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Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Currie Johnson & Myers, P.A. (statement dated 1/20/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (This statement, in the amount of \$44,616.85, represents services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 44,616.85**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Gore, Kilpatrick & Dambrino, PLLC (statements dated 1/29/25, 1/29/25 and 1/29/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$1,580.00, \$180.00 and \$49.50, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,809.50**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Hogan Lovells, US, LLP (statement dated 1/30/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (This statement, in the amount of \$151,891.00, represents services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 151,891.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mayo Mallette, PLLC (statement dated 2/7/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (This statement, in the amount of \$190.00, represents services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 190.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Page, Kruger & Holland (statements dated 2/3/25, 2/3/25, 2/3/25, 2/3/25 and 2/3/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$1,683.00, \$181.97, \$60.00, \$160.00 and \$85.00, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 2,169.97**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Steen, Dalehite & Pace (statement dated 1/20/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (This statement, in the amount of \$807.50, represents services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 807.50**

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Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Vernis & Bowling of Mississippi (statements dated 1/15/25, 1/15/25, 1/15/25, 1/15/25 and 1/15/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$120.00, \$103.50, \$2,211.00, \$947.50 and \$165.00, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 3,547.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Walker & Ungo Immigration Law Firm (statements dated 1/21/25, 1/22/25, 1/22/25 and 2/4/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$2,000.00, \$2,000.00, \$2,000.00 and \$2,000.00, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 8,000.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Watkins & Eager, PLLC (statements dated 1/8/25, 1/16/25, 1/16/25, 2/7/25, 2/7/25, 2/10/25, 2/18/25 and 2/18/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$15,873.50, \$37.65, \$1,777.15, \$1,973.50, \$99.00, \$1,298.50, \$212.00 and \$1,272.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 22,543.30**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statement dated 12/9/24) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$543.00, represents services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 543.00**

**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 Conley Rose (statement dated 3/6/25) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$11,070.00, represents services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 11,070.00**

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Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mendelsohn Dunleavy (statement dated 3/5/25) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$118.50, represents services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 118.50**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Stites & Harbison (statements dated 1/28/25, 1/28/25 and 1/28/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$5,593.00, \$3,414.00 and \$2,432.00, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 11,439.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 2/28/25, 2/28/25 and 2/28/25) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$40.50, \$1,947.00 and \$931.50, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 2,919.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mendelsohn Dunleavy PC (statements dated 3/6/25, 3/6/25 and 3/6/25) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$5,035.00, \$5,369.00 and \$210.00, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 10,614.00**

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1. **SYSTEM – 2025 SPRING COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE**

**Alcorn State University**

Time/Date: 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 10, 2025  
Location: Davey L. Whitney Health, Physical Education and Recreation Complex  
Speaker: The Honorable Gregory Holloway, Mississippi House of Representatives, Copiah and Hinds Counties, District 76

Time/Date: 1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 10, 2025  
Location: Davey L. Whitney Health, Physical Education and Recreation Complex  
Speaker: The Honorable Gregory Holloway, Mississippi House of Representatives, Copiah and Hinds Counties, District 76

**Delta State University**

*Graduates*

Time/Date: 10:00 a.m., Friday, May 9, 2025  
Location: Bologna Performing Arts Center  
Speaker: TBD

*Undergraduates*

Time/Date: 2:00 p.m., Friday, May 9, 2025  
Location: Bologna Performing Arts Center  
Speaker: TBD

**Jackson State University**

*Graduates*

Time/Date: 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 2, 2025  
Location: Lee E. Williams Athletics and Assembly Center

*Undergraduates*

Time/Date: 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 3, 2025  
Location: Lee E. Williams Athletics and Assembly Center

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**Mississippi State University**

*Starkville Campus*

*Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Commencement*

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2025  
Location: Humphrey Coliseum

*Doctoral Graduation and Hooding Ceremony (Ph.D. and Ed.D.)*

Time/Date: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2025  
Location: Bettersworth Auditorium, Lee Hall

*Meridian Campus*

Time/Date: 11:00 a.m., Thursday, May 14, 2025  
Location: MSU Riley Center  
Speaker: Dr. Mark E. Keenum, President, Mississippi State University

*Starkville Campus*

*College of Arts and Sciences*

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m., Thursday, May 15, 2025  
Location: Humphrey Coliseum  
Speaker: Dr. Mark E. Keenum, President, Mississippi State University

*ACCESS Program, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, College of Education*

Time/Date: 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 15, 2025  
Location: Humphrey Coliseum  
Speaker: Dr. Mark E. Keenum, President, Mississippi State University

*College of Architecture, Art and Design; College of Business*

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Friday, May 16, 2025  
Location: Humphrey Coliseum  
Speaker: Dr. Mark E. Keenum, President, Mississippi State University

*Academic Affairs, Bagley College of Engineering, College of Forest Resources, College of Professional and Continuing Studies, College of Veterinary Medicine*

Time/Date: 3:30 p.m., Friday, May 16, 2025  
Location: Humphrey Coliseum  
Speaker: Dr. Mark E. Keenum, President, Mississippi State University

**Mississippi University for Women**

*College of Nursing and Health Sciences (ASN, BSN and DNP)*

Time/Date: 1:00 p.m., Friday, May 9, 2025  
Location: Rent Auditorium, Whitfield Hall



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*College of Nursing and Health Sciences (Health & Kinesiology and Speech-Language Pathology)*

Time/Date: 4:00 p.m., Friday, May 9, 2025  
Location: Rent Auditorium, Whitfield Hall

**Mississippi Valley State University**

Time/Date: 8:00 a.m., Saturday, May 10, 2025  
Location: R.W. Harrison Sports Complex  
Speaker: Mr. Darryl Gaines, Associate Program Manager, Commercial LEO Development Program at NASA-Johnson Space Center

**University of Mississippi**

Time/Date: 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 10, 2025  
Location: The Grove  
Speaker: Mr. Arthur Juan (A.J.) Brown, Former UM Student Athlete Current NFL Player with the Philadelphia Eagles

**University of Mississippi Medical Center**

Time/Date: 10:00 a.m., Friday, May 23, 2025  
Location: Mississippi Coliseum

**The University of Southern Mississippi**

*Graduate Students – All Colleges*

Time/Date: 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 8, 2025  
Location: Bernard Reed Green Coliseum, Hattiesburg, MS

*Undergraduates – College of Arts and Sciences*

*College of Nursing and Health Professions*

Time/Date: 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 9, 2025  
Location: Bernard Reed Green Coliseum, Hattiesburg, MS

*Undergraduates – College of Business and Economic Development*

*College of Education and Human Sciences*

Time/Date: 2:00 p.m., Friday, May 9, 2025  
Location: Bernard Reed Green Coliseum, Hattiesburg, MS

*Gulf Coast Campus*

*Graduates and Undergraduates – All Colleges*

Time/Date: 3:00 p.m., Saturday, May 10, 2025  
Location: Mississippi Coast Coliseum, Biloxi, MS

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**2. SYSTEM – COMMISSIONER’S NOTICE OF APPROVAL**

The following items have been approved by the Commissioner on behalf of the Board and are available for review in the Board Office.

- a. **DSU** – On March 7, 2025, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Permanent Drainage Easement between Delta State University and the City of Cleveland, Mississippi to allow for the perpetual maintenance of a drainage line to resolve flooding issues related to Pecan Bayou including the area around a walking trail and intermural field between Bishop Road and Canal Avenue. The easement is being granted to the City of Cleveland for the sum of \$10. The Attorney General’s Office reviewed this item and found it to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- b. **DSU** – On March 7, 2025, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Donation Temporary Easement between Delta State University and the City of Cleveland, Mississippi for a 1.07 acre parcel on the north right-of-way side of Highway 8 to allow for the extension and repair of an existing sidewalk adjacent to the DSU campus. The easement will terminate upon completion of the construction project. The Attorney General’s Office reviewed this item and found it to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- c. **DSU** – On, March 7, 2025, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Temporary Drainage Easement between Delta State University and the City of Cleveland, Mississippi to allow for construction and repair of a drainage line to resolve flooding issues related to Pecan Bayou including three parcels of property between Bishop Road and Canal Street as described in the easement. The easement is being granted to the City of Cleveland for the sum of \$10 and will terminate upon completion of the project. The Attorney General’s Office reviewed this item and found it to be compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- d. **MVSU** – On March 13, 2025, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Oracle Database licensing contract renewal between Mississippi Valley State University and Mythics. The original agreement with Mythics had a term of three years from December 1, 2018 through November 30, 2021. A new agreement was approved by the Board on November 18, 2021 with a term of three years effective December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2024. The total cost of the previous 3-year agreement was \$358,166.54. This request for renewal of that Agreement is for a period of 10 months effective December 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, at a total cost of \$74,757.00, which is less than 110% of the original contract cost. The IHL Associate Commissioner for Legal Affairs and Risk Management reviewed this item, and found it compliant with Board Policy 707.01 Land, Property, and Service Contracts. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.