

Minutes of the Education Achievement Council Meeting

February 5, 2015

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Education Achievement Council (EAC) met in the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board Room in Jackson, Mississippi at 11:00 a.m. on February 5, 2015.

Council Members Present:

Mr. Ed Blakeslee, Trustee, Institutions of Higher Learning
Dr. Rodney Bennett, President, University of Southern Mississippi
Dr. Jim Borsig, President, Mississippi University for Women
Ms. La Shon Brooks representing Dr. William Bynum, President, Mississippi Valley State University
Mr. Lee Bush, Board Member, Mississippi Community College Board
Dr. Eric Clark, Executive Director, Mississippi Community College Board
Dr. Ronnie Nettles, President, Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Dr. Billy Stewart, President, East Central Community College
Dr. Jesse Smith, President, Jones County Junior College
Dr. Laurie Smith, Education Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Phil Bryant
Ms. Vicki Powell representing Mr. Blake Wilson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mississippi Economic Council
Ms. Jean Massey, Associate State Superintendent, State Department of Education representing Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent, Mississippi State Department of Education

Council Members Not Present:

Dr. Hank Bounds, Commissioner of Higher Education, Institutions of Higher Learning
Chairman Herb Frierson, Chairman, House of Representatives Appropriations Committee
Chairman Nolan Mettetal, Chairman, House of Representatives Universities and Colleges Committee
Chairman John Polk, Chairman, Senate Universities and Colleges Committee
Chairman Gray Tollison, Chairman, Senate Education Committee
Chairman Eugene Clarke, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
Mr. Chip Crane, Board Member, Mississippi Community College Board
Mr. Michael Jordan, Director, Division of Professional Development, MS Department of Mental Health
Ms. Robin Robinson, Trustee, Institutions of Higher Learning

Others Present:

Mr. Henry Anderson, Webmaster, Institutions of Higher Learning
Mr. Milton Anderson, President, Virginia College
Dr. Thomas Burke, Executive Assistant to the President, University of Southern Mississippi
Ms. Kim Vereniulle, Director of Proprietary Schools, MS Community College Board

Dr. Joan Haynes, Associate Executive Director for Academic & Student Affairs, MS Community College Board
Ms. Caron Blanton, Communications Director, Institutions of Higher Learning
Dr. Jimmy Clarke, Director of Lumina Strategy Labs
Dr. Glenn Boyce, Associate Commissioner of Academic and Student Affairs, Institutions of Higher Learning
Mr. Raul Fletes, Assistant Executive Director for Research and Effectiveness, MS Community College Board
Dr. Jim Hood, Director of Strategic Data Management, Institutions of Higher Learning
Dr. Debra Gilbert, Deputy Executive Director for Finance & Administration, MS Community College Board
Dr. Susan Lee, Director of Academic Affairs , Institutions of Higher Learning
Ms. Clotee Lewis, Coordinator of Public Affairs, Institutions of Higher Learning
Ms. Pearl Pennington, Director, Mississippi Higher Education Opportunity Endowment
Institutions of Higher Learning
Ms. Jennifer Rogers, Director of Student Financial Aid, Office of Student Financial Aid
Mr. Kell Smith, Director of Communications and Legislative Services, MS Community College Board
Mr. Randel S. Davis, Copiah-Lincoln Community College
Dr. Casey Turnage, Director of P-20 Initiatives and Enrollment Management, Institutions of Higher Learning
Ms. Trecina Green, Associate Superintendent, State Department of Education

I. Welcome

Dr. Jesse Smith opened the meeting and welcomed participants.

II. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Smith asked members to review the minutes from the October 23, 2014, meeting. Dr. Jim Borsig moved that the minutes be approved. Dr. Billy Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

III. Update on LifeTracks Study of Completion Rate for 2007 Entering Students

Dr. Smith gave an update on the LifeTracks Study Completion Rate for 2007 entering freshman students. The study looked at data for all students who enrolled in 2007 full-time or part time in community colleges and universities. The purpose of this study is to demonstrate actual productivity for public higher education in Mississippi. Dr. Smith noted that the final report will be presented to the Committee for approval at a later date.

Preliminary results indicate that freshmen enrollment for 2007-2008 year was approximately 29,150 for first-time, full-time students. Approximately 41.5% of students at both 4-year universities and 2-year colleges earned a degree within a 6-year period. 46.1% earned a bachelor's degree

43% earned an associate's degree
10% earned certificates
80.5% finished at the school where they started

IV. Student Financial Aid Study Committee Report

Ms. Jennifer Rogers, Director of State Student Financial Aid, gave an update from the EAC State Aid Study Committee on financial aid.

The committee is charged with proposing a state financial aid program that targets working adults who are likely place-bound and unable to attend college full-time.

Ms. Rogers reported that the committee looked at considerations, i.e., what barriers do adult students face; what resources currently exist; what additional resources are need, etc. Barriers included:

- Unable to meet admission requirements;
- Lack of GED;
- Lack of computer access or computer skills (for online courses or degree programs);
- Problems from prior enrollments, and
- Time and scheduling.

Other areas discussed were types of aid programs such as construction loans, where a student draws down funds as needed, the AmeriCorps program, work study or co-op type programs, and programs that provide graduated awards by degree pursued.

The Committee also requested further guidance in moving forward from the Education Achievement Council, i.e., type of student to receive aid, certificate or degree pathway, are employer needs being met; postpone for development of CBE programs (tie state needs to CBE programs such as health, construction).

Dr. Jesse Smith: There are many barriers to obtaining a college degree. There needs to be a strong understanding of affordability of students' abilities to pay. This goes back to supply of education and demand. Universities and colleges need to fine-tune policies and figure out a way to better align their programs and policies with the needs and realities of their students. Needs should be identified.

Dr. Borsig: Colleges and universities should pinpoint where the demand is. There is a sizable gap between the percentage of students who plan to graduate and those who actually do. This suggests that the services that colleges believe are needed may not be helping retain and graduate students. Colleges may need to re-evaluate the services offered.

Dr. Boyce: The Council needs to look at instrumental programs for adults—programs that take the fear factor out of non-traditional students returning to school and how cost-effective the programs are.

Dr. Boyce: The Council should request a report from Lifetracks to determine how many hours students have before completion and to determine what group of students to target for degree completion. This could be done through a scalable pilot program. Colleges and universities play a critical role in meeting the demands of different educational credential pathways. There must be value in showing those who gain educational credentials beyond high school are significantly better off than those who do not.

Dr. Tom Burke: The barrier to completion may be due to factors other than financial. The fear factors that inhibit students from completion should be better managed by institutions.

Recommendation:

1. Take a look at developing aid for non-traditional group
2. Request a report from Lifetracks. Dr. Boyce was asked to design scope of request.
3. Propose a program for working adults made up of two-year, public, private, business community
4. Establish a committee to study non-financial aid barriers for non-traditional students.

Dr. Jesse Smith asked members to let him know if council members want to participate on committee for best practices across the country. Focus on specific workforce.

(Copy of PowerPoint report attached)

V. Proprietary Schools and Colleges Registration

Dr. Ronnie Nettles gave a report on the Commission on Proprietary Schools and Colleges Registration meeting, which he attended on December 18, 2014, on behalf of the EAC.

At the CPSCR meeting, Dr. Nettles presented the mission and goals of the Educational Achievement Council, specifically the goal of having 60 percent of the state's population, within the 25-64 year age group, earn a certificate of value or degree by the year 2025.

Dr. Nettles explained that to get an accurate and complete picture of Mississippi's success in achieving this goal, the cooperation of proprietary schools would be needed. He expressed to the group that he did not have the specific details of what that reporting would require at the time of his presentation to the Commission.

Dr. Nettles visit was well received by the Commission members. Furthermore, during the public comments time, a number of the proprietary college and school representatives present expressed their appreciation and their desire to be more engaged with the EAC and its efforts.

Recommendation from Dr. Nettles:

- EAC consider recommending changes in next year's legislation to include the appointment of a representative from the proprietary schools and colleges to the EAC. Further recommend that a member be added from the private college association.

Milton Anderson, president of Virginia College, addressed the EAC and provided an update on Virginia College's programs. He reported on the success of students continuing their education at Mississippi Public Universities. He agreed with the need for technical schools to be a part of the EAC team, which could contribute valuable ideas to help move the state's higher education system forward.

Dr. Eric Clark commented that the Mississippi Community College Board has strengthened its relationship with the proprietary schools, which has created more oversight and more collaboration.

Motion was made by Dr. Clark to ask the 2016 Legislature to add two new members to the EAC: one representing the proprietary schools and one representing independent colleges. Motion was seconded by Dr. Borsig. Motion carried.

The EAC Council members agreed that, until legislation is passed authorizing representation of the proprietary schools and independent colleges on the EAC council, the schools may participate as ex-officio members, with no voting rights.

Mr. Anderson from Virginia College recommended that the EAC send a letter to the Mississippi Proprietary School Association and Mississippi Association of Independent Schools explaining the purpose and goals of the Education Achievement Council.

Motion to send letter to the Mississippi Proprietary School Association and Mississippi Association of Independent Schools explaining the purpose and goals of the Education Achievement Council was made by Mr. Lee Bush and seconded by Mr. Blakeslee. Motion carried.

Dr. Smith thanked Mr. Anderson and Dr. Nettles for their reports.

VI. Adoption of Community College Report Cards

Dr. Clark reported that the Community College Report Cards are in draft form pending approval by the Mississippi Community College Board in April. Once the Report Cards are validated and approved by the Board, they will be presented at the next meeting of the EAC.

Dr. Borsig reported the IHL Report Cards have been approved and adopted.

VII. Update on Legislation Regarding Reciprocity Agreements for Distance Education

Dr. Boyce reported that Chairman Mettetal and Chairman Polk support HB 951/Senate Bill 2453, which authorize the Mississippi Commission on College Accreditation to administer interstate reciprocity agreements that will allow approved institutions of higher learning and registered proprietary schools to offer postsecondary distance education for related purposes. Schools are not mandated to join. Dr. Boyce thanked Chairman Mettetal and Polk for their support.

Copies of HB 951 and SB 2453 are attached.

VIII. 2015 Meeting Dates

April 23

August 27

October 22

The next meeting of the Education Achievement Council will be held on Thursday, April 23, at 11:00 a.m., in the IHL Board Room.

IX. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

RISE★UP!
Get Money for College and Rise Up to a Better Life
www.mississippi.edu/financialaid

State Aid Study Committee Update
Education Achievement Council
February 5, 2015



State Aid Study Committee Charge

Propose a state financial aid program that targets working adults who are likely place-bound and unable to attend college full-time.

RISE★UP! *The knowledge to get to college!*

Considerations

- What barriers do adult students face?
- What resources currently exist?
- What additional resources are needed?
- What type of financial aid would be most beneficial?
- What should the eligibility requirements look like?
- How much would the ideal financial aid program cost?
- Is the anticipated cost sustainable, and where would the money come from?
- Is a scalable pilot project possible?

RISE★UPI

The knowledge to get to college!

Barriers

- Enrollment starts and stops
- Time and scheduling
- Unable to meet admission requirements; GED
- Lack of computer access or computer skills
- Problems from prior enrollment:
 - Federal loans in default
 - SAP problems
 - Balance owed to school; no transcripts
 - Maxed out Pell and loan eligibility
- Cost

RISE★UPI

The knowledge to get to college!

Types of Aid Programs Discussed

- “Construction loan” type grant
- AmeriCorps type program
- Graduated awards by degree type
- Work-study or Co-op type program
- Competency-based education aid program

RISE★UPI

The knowledge to get to college!

Guidance Requested

- Type of student to receive aid?
- Require major, certificate or degree pathway?
- Mississippi employer needs to be met?
- Postpone for development of CBE programs?

RISE★UPI

The knowledge to get to college!

RISE ★ UP!

Get Money for College and Rise Up to a Better Life
www.mississippi.edu/financialaid

Questions

Jennifer Rogers

jrogers@mississippi.edu



By: Representative Mettetal

To: Universities and
Colleges; Appropriations

HOUSE BILL NO. 951

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-101-241, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO ALLOW THE COMMISSION ON COLLEGE ACCREDITATION TO ENTER INTO
3 INTERSTATE RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS THAT ALLOW AUTHORIZED
4 DEGREE-GRANTING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN MISSISSIPPI TO
5 OFFER POSTSECONDARY DISTANCE EDUCATION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-101-241, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 37-101-241. (1) There is hereby created the Commission on
10 College Accreditation. Said commission shall be composed of the
11 Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board, the
12 Commissioner of Higher Education, or their designees, and three
13 (3) additional members, one (1) of whom shall be selected by the
14 foregoing two (2) members and who shall represent the private
15 colleges within the state, and two (2) of whom shall be selected
16 by the Mississippi Association of Colleges. The latter three (3)
17 members shall each serve for a term of three (3) years.

18 (2) The commission shall meet and organize by electing from
19 among its membership a chairman, a vice chairman and a secretary.



20 The commission shall keep full and complete minutes and records of
21 all its proceedings and actions.

22 (3) The commission shall have the power and authority, and
23 it shall be its duty, to prepare an approved list of community,
24 junior and senior colleges and universities or other entities
25 which offer one or more postsecondary academic degrees and are
26 domiciled, incorporated or otherwise located in the State of
27 Mississippi. Postsecondary academic degrees include, but are not
28 limited to, associate, bachelor, masters and doctorate degrees.
29 The commission shall adopt standards which are in keeping with the
30 best educational practices in accreditation and receive reports
31 from the institutions seeking to be placed on the approved list.

32 (4) The above-described community, junior and senior
33 colleges and universities or other entities must be approved
34 annually by the commission in order to grant diplomas of
35 graduation, degrees or offer instruction.

36 (5) The commission shall petition the chancery court of the
37 county in which a person or agent offers one or more postsecondary
38 academic degrees subject to the provisions of this chapter or
39 advertises for the offering of such degrees without having first
40 obtained approval by the commission, for an order enjoining such
41 offering or advertising. The court may grant such injunctive
42 relief upon a showing that the respondent named in the petition is
43 offering or advertising one or more postsecondary academic degrees
44 without having obtained prior approval of the commission. The



45 Attorney General or the district attorney of the district,
46 including the county in which such action is brought, shall, upon
47 request of the commission, represent the commission in bringing
48 any such action.

49 (6) The provisions of subsection (5) shall not apply to
50 community, junior and senior colleges and universities with the
51 main campus in Mississippi that were chartered, authorized or
52 approved by the commission prior to July 1, 1988.

53 (7) The provisions of this section shall not apply to the
54 proprietary schools and colleges subject to regulation under
55 Section 75-60-1 et seq.

56 (8) The Commission on College Accreditation may promulgate
57 rules and regulations and establish appropriate fees for the
58 implementation of this section.

59 (9) The commission shall have the power and authority, and
60 it shall be its duty, to execute site visits when deemed necessary
61 by the commission. The members of the commission and
62 commission-appointed evaluation teams shall receive reasonable
63 traveling expenses and other authorized expenses incurred in the
64 performance of commission duties, together with other expenses of
65 the operation of the commission. The members of the Commission on
66 College Accreditation shall serve without salary compensation but
67 shall receive a per diem and mileage as authorized by law
68 including time of going to and returning from site visits of said
69 commission, together with actual travel and hotel expenses



70 incident to the site visits of the commission, and in the
71 discharge of duties prescribed by the commission.

72 (10) (a) The commission may enter into interstate
73 reciprocity agreements that allow authorized, accredited
74 degree-granting institutions of higher education, whose legal
75 domicile is in Mississippi, to offer postsecondary distance
76 education. The commission shall administer such agreements and
77 shall approve or disapprove participation in such agreements by
78 accredited degree-granting institutions of higher education
79 domiciled in Mississippi. Participation in such agreements shall
80 be voluntary. The commission may establish fees to be paid by
81 participating institutions to cover direct and indirect
82 administrative costs incurred by the commission. The commission
83 may serve as the state point of contact for reciprocity
84 agreement-related questions, complaints and other communications
85 and/or enter into agreements with other state agencies regarding
86 state responsibilities related to reciprocity agreements. The
87 commission may also form committees to assist in establishing
88 policies and processes.

89 (b) Nothing in this subsection (10) shall be construed
90 to prohibit state authorized degree-granting institutions of
91 higher education domiciled in Mississippi that do not participate
92 in any interstate reciprocity agreement entered into by the
93 commission from offering postsecondary distance education.



94 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
95 and after July 1, 2015.



By: Senator(s) Polk

To: Universities and
Colleges

SENATE BILL NO. 2453

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION ON COLLEGE ACCREDITATION
2 TO ADMINISTER INTERSTATE RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS THAT WILL ALLOW
3 APPROVED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND REGISTERED
4 PROPRIETARY SCHOOLS TO OFFER POSTSECONDARY DISTANCE EDUCATION; AND
5 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

7 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
8 37-101-243, Mississippi Code of 1972:

9 37-101-243. (1) For the purposes of this section, these
10 words are defined as follows:

11 (a) "Commission" means the Commission on College
12 Accreditation created under Section 37-101-241; and

13 (b) "Institution" means and includes institutions of
14 higher learning approved under Section 37-101-241 and proprietary
15 schools and other entities subject to regulation under Section
16 75-60-1 et seq.

17 (2) The commission may enter into and administer interstate
18 reciprocity agreements that allow institutions to offer
19 postsecondary distance education. The commission is further



20 authorized to carry out the following duties as related to
21 interstate reciprocity agreements:

22 (a) Approve or disapprove participation in these
23 agreements by institutions;

24 (b) Establish fees to be paid by participating
25 institutions to cover the commission's direct and indirect
26 administrative costs;

27 (c) Serve as the state point of contact for questions,
28 complaints and other communications;

29 (d) Enter into agreements with other state agencies
30 regarding state responsibilities; and

31 (e) Form committees to assist in establishing policies
32 and procedures.

33 (3) The commission shall not:

34 (a) Require institutions to participate in interstate
35 reciprocity agreements; or

36 (b) Prohibit institutions that do not participate in
37 these agreements from offering postsecondary distance education.

38 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
39 and after July 1, 2015.

