



Board Book

April 16, 2026

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

IHL Board Meeting | April 16, 2026, 9:00 a.m. | IHL Board Room

CALL TO ORDER INVOCATION INTRODUCTIONS

Trustee Gee Ogletree
Trustee Charlie Stephenson

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President Dr. Joe Paul
University of Southern Mississippi

NCHEMS PRESENTATION

Dr. Brian Prescott, President
Dr. Sarah Pingel, Vice President
NCHEMS

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| Trustee Gee Ogletree

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
March 12, 2026**

BE IT REMEMBERED, That the Jackson State University Board Search Committee met at the Board Office in Jackson, Mississippi at approximately 9:00 a.m. on March 12, 2026, and pursuant to notice in writing, to each and every member of said Committee. The following members participated: Dr. Steven Cunningham (Chair), Ms. Amy Arrington, Mr. Don Clark, Dr. Ormella Cummings (via Zoom), Mr. Jerry L. Griffith, Mr. Jimmy Heidelberg, Ms. Teresa Hubbard, Mr. Bruce Martin, Mr. Gee Ogletree, Mr. Hal Parker (via Zoom), Mr. Gregg Rader (via Zoom), and Mr. Charlie Stephenson. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cunningham.

Chairman Cunningham welcomed the Search Advisory Constituency members to their second meeting with the Jackson State University Board Search Committee. The following SAC members were present:

- Dr. Nicholas J. Hill—Dean, College of Business, Jackson State University
- Dr. Candice L. Jackson—Secretary, Jackson State University Faculty Senate, and Associate Professor, Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Speech Communications, Jackson State University
- Dr. Deidre L. Wheaton—Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Development
- Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert Crear—Advisory Board, Jackson State University Development Foundation
- Patrease Edwards—President, Jackson State University National Alumni Association

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Trustee Griffith, seconded by Trustee Arrington, with Trustee Stephenson absent and not voting, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an Executive Session. On motion by Trustee Arrington, seconded by Trustee Ogletree, with Trustee Stephenson absent and not voting, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously **to enter Executive Session** for the reason reported to the public and stated in these minutes, as follows:

In connection with the Jackson State University presidential search, the JSU Board Search Committee will transact business and discuss personnel matters involving the performance, character, and professional competence of individuals applying for the position at Jackson State University. They will also receive and discuss confidential legal advice from our counsel concerning compliance with federal and state law regarding the search. The discussion of these items in open session would be detrimental to IHL's legal interest.

During Executive Session, the following matter was discussed:

The JSU Board Search Committee transacted business and discussed personnel matters involving the performance, character, and professional competence of individuals applying for the position at Jackson State University. They also received and discussed confidential legal advice from our counsel concerning compliance with federal and state law regarding the search. **No action was taken.**

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On motion by Trustee Ogletree, seconded by Trustee Clark, with Trustee Stephenson absent and not voting, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to return to Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

President, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning

Commissioner, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
March 19, 2026**

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 November 24, 2025, to each and every member of said Board said date being at least five days prior to this March 19, 2026 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. Bruce Martin, Mr. Gee Ogletree, Mr. Hal Parker, Mr. Gregg Rader, and Mr. Charlie Stephenson. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gee Ogletree, President. Trustee Cummings introduced Pastor Bryce Rader, pastor of Christ Fellowship in Williamsburg, Virginia, who provided the invocation.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Griffith, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on February 19, 2026.

PRESENTATIONS

- The Board received a presentation about the University of Mississippi Medical Center from Dr. LouAnn Woodward, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine.
- The Board received a presentation from Dr. Sarah Pingel, Vice President, of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS).

CONSENT AGENDAS

On motion by Trustee Rader, seconded by Trustee Cummings, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the following Consent Agendas.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

1. **MSU** – Approved the modification of the following existing academic degree program
Rename
Current program title: Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Applied Science
Proposed program title: Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Professional Studies
CIP code, sequence: 30.0000, 5887
Total credit hours: 120
Effective date: January 2026

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
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FINANCE AND BUDGET

2. **ASU** – Approved the request to enter a purchase agreement with Tri-County Equipment Sales & Service, Inc. for the purchase and delivery of four (4) 2025 Oxbo BH100 Bean/Pea Harvesters. The contractor shall provide new, single-row, tractor-pulled crop harvesters designed for efficient harvesting of legumes, particularly Pinkeye-Purple Hull Peas and similar specialty row crops. The term of this contract shall commence upon execution by both parties and shall continue until complete performance of all contractual obligations, including delivery, installation, and acceptance of all four (4) bean/pea harvesters. The total contract amount is \$262,000 for a unit price of \$65,500 for each harvester to be delivered to Alcorn State University's Agriculture Department. No additional costs or fees are anticipated beyond this contract amount. The contract will be funded by federal funds under the U. S. Department of Education. 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. **MSU** – Approved the request to enter a new service agreement with Shine Early Learning, Inc. to provide services for Head Start programs to meet basic compliance standards, create positive outcomes for children and families, and provide training in accordance with the terms of a grant awarded to the University by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (Office of Head Start). The initial term of the agreement is March 20, 2026 through July 30, 2026. After the initial term, the agreement will automatically renew for four additional one-year terms. The contract cost for the initial term is \$2,192,585.00 which includes a one-time Start-Up fee of \$200,000. Each renewal term fee shall be no less than the initial fee of \$1,992,585 increased by the percentage of the annual cost of living allowance increase that MSU receives from the Office of Head Start. The total contract cost is anticipated to be approximately \$11,235,000. Payments will be made as project milestones are reached, with an initial payment of \$1,562,341.25 made at the initiation of the agreement and monthly payments thereafter. Pursuant to Board Policy 707.03 Approval of Prepayment for Goods and Services, the Board also approved the request for the institution to prepay for services provided under this agreement. The contract will be funded by a grant awarded to the University by the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (Office of Head Start). MSU has confirmed that the agreement is in compliance with the terms of that grant and is otherwise legally permissible. 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.
4. **MSU** – Approved a budget escalation of the educational & general budget of the Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory (MSCL) for FY 2026 to procure new equipment necessary for continued support of state regulatory programs and to improve MSCL's turnaround time. Fund balance reserves of \$1,045,201.71 will provide the source of funds.

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
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Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory General Budget Revision by Major Object			
Category	Current Budget	Increase/ (Decrease)	Revised Budget
Salaries	\$ 1,482,568.00	\$ -	\$ 1,482,568.00
Wages		\$ -	
Fringe Benefits	\$ 417,125.00	\$ -	\$ 417,125.00
Total Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits	\$ 1,899,693.00	\$ -	\$1,899,693.00
Travel and Subsistence	\$ 12,500.00	\$ -	\$ 12,500.00
Contractual Services	\$ 128,000.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 253,000.00
Commodities	\$ 164,469.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 239,469.00
Capital Outlay Non-Equipment			\$ -
Equipment	\$ 161,316.00	\$ 550,000.00	\$ 711,316.00
Total Capital Outlay	\$ 161,316.00	\$ 550,000.00	\$ 711,316.00
Mandatory Transfers			
Debt Service		\$ -	\$ -
Matching		\$ -	\$ -
Other	\$ 39,000.00	\$ -	\$39,000.00
Total Mandatory Transfers	\$ 39,000.00	-	\$39,000.00
Non-Mandatory Transfers			
Auxiliary Support		\$ -	\$ -
Building Projects		\$ -	\$ -
Other		\$ -	\$ -
Total Non-Mandatory Transfers		\$ -	\$ -
Increase in Fund Balance			
Total Uses of Funding	\$ 2,404,978.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 3,154,978.00

5. **MUW** – The Board granted retroactive approval for a one-year agreement with Knight Coach, Inc. to provide charter bus services to the MUW athletics teams from August 15, 2025 to June 30, 2026. The total contract amount is not to exceed \$500,000. MUW has expended \$82,540 since August 15, 2025 and expects to expend \$275,000 by June 30, 2026. This contract is funded through Mississippi University for Women Athletic Department 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.
6. **UM** – Approved the request to escalate the Auxiliary Enterprises budget for Fiscal year 2026.

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**University of Mississippi
FY 2026 Auxiliary Enterprises by Major Object**

Category	Current FY 2026 Operating Budget	Revision/Escalation	Revised FY 2026 Operating Budget
Salaries, Wages, and Fringe Benefits	\$ 75,663,065	\$ 1,680,963	\$ 77,344,028
Travel and Subsistence	11,952,136	5,530,000	17,482,136
Contractual Services	113,996,254	1,780,437	115,776,691
Commodities	33,182,539	1,889,350	35,071,889
Capital Outlay: Non-Equipment	-	-	-
Capital Outlay: Equipment	4,657,667	1,500	4,659,167
Mandatory Transfers	15,724,272	-	15,724,272
Non-Mandatory Transfers	12,229,158	-	12,229,158
Increase in Fund Balance	-	-	-
Total	\$ 267,405,091	\$ 10,882,250	\$ 278,287,341

The University of Mississippi (UM) requests approval to escalate its Auxiliary Enterprises budget for FY 2026. This escalation is requested to provide spending authority for additional revenues in Athletics and to cover costs associated with the 2025 College Football Playoff.

7. **UMMC** – Approved the request to amend a purchase agreement with Boston Scientific Corporation (Boston Scientific) to extend the term, to specify certain accessory purchases are included in the purchase of the cardiac rhythm management (CRM) device or system, and to update the rebate program opportunity criteria. The agreement is for the purchase of various consumable commodities and equipment for use during the implantation of CRM devices, such as pacemakers and defibrillators. The Board approved the request for the institution to continue to add or remove products under the agreement without seeking prior Board approval as long as it does not increase the approved expenditure level. The term of the amended agreement is six (6) years from September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2029. The original agreement was for a term of three (3) years. The amendment extends the term by three (3) years. The total estimated cost of the amended agreement over the six (6) year term is \$16,600,000. The original estimated cost of the agreement was \$9,300,000. UMMC has included a twenty percent (20%) annual increase to allow for potential patient volume growth. This 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.
8. **UMMC** – Approved the request to enter a Medical Office Building Lease with 5360, LLC (5360) for approximately 15,347 square feet of office space located in Jackson, Mississippi for use by the Center for Advancement of Youth (CAY) Clinic. CAY provides evidence-based behavioral, developmental, and emotional services for their patients. At this new clinic, CAY will integrate child psychiatry, child development, and physical/occupational/and speech therapies into one (1) location, as well as provide educational space for parent and family teaching and group therapy. The term of the agreement is five (5) years, beginning on or about June 1, 2026 and will expire on or about May 31, 2031. The estimated total cost of the lease is \$1,575,000.00 over the five (5) year term. UMMC’s initial base rent is \$18.50 per square feet with an annual increase of two-percent (2%), beginning in year 2. Pursuant to Board Policy 707.03 Approval of

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Prepayment for Goods and Services, the Board also approved the request for the institution to prepay the rent in advance each month. The lease will be funded by 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

9. **ASU** – Approved the initiation of IHL 201-267, Soccer/Track Field Renovation, and the appointment of Major Design Studio as the design professional. The project will demolish the existing track surface and grass to prepare the field to receive new synthetic turf for soccer and a new track field surface that meets NCAA Regulations, plus all field events and field lighting. The bleachers will hold up to 200 spectators. The estimated project budget is \$3 million. Funds are available from University Funds (\$3,000,000).
10. **DSU** – Approved the request to increase the budget for GS 102-292, Storm Damage Repairs from \$2,800,000 to \$4,918,186.67 for an increase of \$2,118,186.67 and to modify the funding source from HB 603, Laws of 2023 funds to SB 2468, Laws of 2024 and Internal Funds received from previous insurance payouts. Funds are available from DSU internal funds (\$897,375.67) and SB 2468, L’24 (\$4,020,808).
11. **ASU** – Approved the exterior design of the President’s House Carport Addition project to erect a 24’x21’ open carport addition on the west side of the property just outside of the existing garage. This structure will have electricity for surface light fixtures and gutters to match the home and garage. Funds are available from the ASU Foundation.

LEGAL

12. **JSU** – Pending approval by the Attorney General’s Office, the Board granted retroactive approval to enter a contract with the law firm of Mayo Mallette, PLLC, as outside counsel, to provide services necessary for the review and revision of staff, faculty and student handbooks, as well as advising on personnel matters and employment law as needed. The term of the agreement began March 2, 2026 and will terminate June 30, 2027. Hourly rates are \$220 for attorneys and \$100 for paralegal services with a maximum amount payable under the term of the agreement of \$50,000. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$2 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$2 million.
13. **MSU** – Approved the request to enter a contract with the law firm of Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush to perform services necessary in assisting the university with intellectual property matters including analysis of intellectual property, filing and prosecution of patent applications, trademark registration applications, copyright registration applications, preparation and negotiating agreements and other related intellectual property and commercialization issues. The term of the contract will be two years beginning April 17, 2026. The hourly rates will be \$250 for shareholder/of counsel attorneys, \$190 for associate attorneys and \$120 for paralegal services. To help manage per-project costs, the University may also pay the firm on a flat-rate basis to prepare and file patent applications. Flat-rate filings for provisional patent applications will not exceed \$5,000 per filing, and non-provisional applications will not exceed \$15,000 per filing. These rates will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, and the most cost-efficient “rate-basis” for the University will be

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determined and agreed upon. The maximum amount payable under the two-year term of the agreement is \$150,000. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$5 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$5 million. This request has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General.

14. **MSU** – Approved the request to enter a contract with the law firm of Quarles and Brady, LLP to perform services necessary in assisting the university with intellectual property matters. The term of the contract will be two years beginning March 17, 2026. The hourly rates will be \$400 for attorneys and \$200 for paralegal services. To help manage per-project costs, the University may also pay the firm on a flat-rate basis to prepare and file patent applications. Flat-rate filings for provisional patent applications will not exceed \$5,000 per filing, and non-provisional applications will not exceed \$15,000 per filing. These rates will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, and the most cost-efficient “rate-basis” for the University will be determined and agreed upon. The maximum amount payable under the two-year term of the agreement is \$75,000. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$1 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$2 million. This request has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General.
15. **MSU** – Approved the request to enter a contract with Weatherly IP Solutions, LLC, as outside counsel to provide services as necessary in assisting the university with intellectual property matters specifically relating to grass patents. The term of the contract will be two years beginning March 24, 2026. The hourly rate for attorney James Weatherly is \$520. To help manage per-project costs, the University may also pay the firm on a flat-rate basis to prepare and file patent applications. Flat-rate filings for provisional patent applications will not exceed \$5,000 per filing, and non-provisional applications will not exceed \$15,000 per filing. Flat fee filings for trademark filings will not exceed \$3,000 per filing. These rates will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, and the most cost-efficient “rate-basis” for the University will be determined and agreed upon. The annual maximum amount payable under the two-year term of the agreement is \$25,000 per year. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$2 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$2 million. This request has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General.

PERSONNEL REPORT

16. **Sabbatical**

Mississippi State University

- Anatoli Afanasjev; Professor of Physics & Astronomy; *from* salary of \$116,857.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$58,428.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development

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- Gombojav Ariunbold; Associate Professor of Physics & Astronomy; *from* salary of \$82,669.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$41,334.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Henk F. Arnoldus; Professor of Physics & Astronomy; *from* salary of \$105,495.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$52,747.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Mitchell E. Berman; Professor of Psychology; *from* salary of \$155,788.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$77,894.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development
- Jacob M. Crook; Assistant Professor of Art; *from* salary of \$67,371.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$33,685.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development
- Hai Dinh Dang; Professor of Mathematics & Statistics; *from* salary of \$124,960.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$62,480.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Angus L. Dawe; Professor of Biological Sciences; *from* salary of \$184,275.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; *to* salary of \$69,103.13 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development
- Gary N. Ervin; Professor of Biological Sciences; *from* salary of \$120,751.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$60,375.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Melvin Fugate; Professor of Management & Information Systems; *from* salary of \$182,727.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$91,363.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development
- Rinat Gabitov; Associate Professor of Geosciences; *from* salary of \$83,555.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$41,777.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development
- Masoud K. Ghartemani; Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering; *from* salary of \$146,443.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$36,610.75 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Tonya S. Hays; Assistant Professor of Communication; *from* salary of \$68,365.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$34,182.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development

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- Terri N. Hernandez; Associate Professor of Communication; *from* salary of \$77,462.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$38,731.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development
- Todd R. Jones; Assistant Professor of Finance & Economics; *from* salary of \$120,489.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$60,244.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Sanna King; Assistant Professor of Sociology; *from* salary of \$78,678.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$39,339.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Robert J. Long; Professor of Art; *from* salary of \$88,552.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$44,276.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Julia A. Osman; Associate Professor of History; *from* salary of \$84,572.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$21,143.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development
- Frank C. Owens, IV; Associate Professor of Sustainable Bioproducts; *from* salary of \$97,339.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$48,669.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Michael R. Potter; Associate Professor of Political Science & Public Administration; *from* salary of \$88,460.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$44,230.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Lauren B. Priddy; Associate Professor of Ag & Bio Engineering; *from* salary of \$101,941.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$50,970.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Matthew W. Priddy; Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering; *from* salary of \$120,989.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$60,494.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Nicole E. Rader; Professor of Sociology; *from* salary of \$185,786.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; *to* salary of \$69,669.75 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development
- Holli H. Seitz; Associate Professor of Communication; *from* salary of \$81,299.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$40,649.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development

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- Keun S. Seo; Associate Professor of Comparative Biomedical Sciences; *from* salary of \$137,889.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$68,944.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development
- Seungjae Shin; Professor of Healthcare Administration; *from* salary of \$153,142.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$76,571.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Vaidyanathan Sivaraman; Associate Professor of Mathematics & Statistics; *from* salary of \$85,112.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$42,556.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development
- Adam D. Skarke; Associate Professor of Geosciences; *from* salary of \$87,505.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$43,752.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Andrea D. Spain; Associate Professor of English; *from* salary of \$70,098.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$35,049.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Marian L. Swindell; Professor of Division of Arts & Sciences; *from* salary of \$99,920.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$49,960.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development
- Wilburn R. Whittington; Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering; *from* salary of \$124,405.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$62,202.50 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to May 15, 2027; professional development
- Brian Williams; Assistant Professor of Geosciences; *from* salary of \$73,162.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$36,581.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 16, 2026, to December 31, 2026; professional development

ADMINISTRATION/POLICY

17. **MSU** – Approved the request to award two honorary degrees at the May 2026 commencement ceremony. Supporting documents are on file at the Board Office.

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REGULAR AGENDAS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Presented by Trustee Teresa Hubbard, Chair

On motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Cummings, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #1 as submitted on the Academic Affairs Agenda.

1. **SYSTEM** – Approved the new policy 618 Financial Literacy Report for final reading and waived the requirement for a second reading of the revisions as required by Board Policy 201.0302 Procedures for Changing Board Policies and Adopting New Policies. The concepts of Financial Literacy – defined as the ability to understand how financial skills, like budgeting, saving, managing debt, and investing, can be used to improve one’s financial well-being and stability – are covered in several ways at each of the IHL institutions including in first-year experience courses, workshops/seminars, co-curricular learning objectives fostered within specific programs, curriculum-based concepts covered in courses, student organization programming, financial coaching for wise use of financial aid, online content made available to students, counseling, and collaborations with external financial institutions. This new policy will require the universities to submit annual reports updating the board on their continued efforts to provide financial literacy education to undergraduate students.

618 FINANCIAL LITERACY REPORT

Financial literacy emphasizes practical knowledge and skills relevant to students' unique financial challenges, such as managing limited income, student loans, credit, and long-term planning. Each IHL institution shall ensure that financial literacy concepts are meaningfully covered and accessible to all undergraduate students.

Institutions have the flexibility to tailor approaches to their degree programs, campus culture, resources, and student needs, provided the coverage is practical, evidence-informed, and reaches a broad student population.

Annually, each institution shall submit a report outlining its financial literacy efforts.

FINANCE AND BUDGET AGENDA

Presented by Trustee Charlie Stephenson, Chair

On motion by Trustee Stephenson, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #1 as submitted on the Finance and Budget Regular Agenda. Trustees Martin and Ogletree recused themselves from discussing or voting on item #2 on the Finance and Budget Regular Agenda by leaving the room before the discussions and votes regarding the same. With Trustees Martin and Ogletree out of the room, on motion by Trustee Stephenson, seconded by Trustee Rader, with Trustees Martin and Ogletree absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #2. Trustee Martin returned to the room following the discussion and vote on item #2. Trustee

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Ogletree recused himself from discussing and voting on items #3 and #4 and remained out of the room. With Trustee Ogletree out of the room, on motion by Trustee Stephenson, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, with Trustee Ogletree absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #3. Trustees Arrington and Clark recused themselves from discussing or voting on item #4 on the Finance and Budget Regular Agenda by leaving the room. With Trustees Arrington, Clark, and Ogletree out of the room, on motion by Trustee Stephenson, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, with Trustees Arrington, Clark, and Ogletree absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #4. Trustees Arrington, Clark, and Ogletree returned to the room following the discussion and vote on item #4.

1. **UMMC** – Approved the request to enter a new Distribution Services Agreement with Medline Industries, LP, (Medline) and Vanderbilt Health Purchasing Collaborative, LLC (VHPC). The Distribution Services Agreement 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 Agreement, Medline will provide inventory management, Low Unit of Measure stock picking operations (LUM), and delivery services to UMMC hospitals and clinics. The Board approved the request for the institution to add or remove specific services and locations provided by Medline under the agreement without seeking prior Board approval as long as adequate funds are available. The term of this agreement is five (5) years and (6) six months. The agreement shall begin on the April 1, 2026, which is the effective date and the agreement will remain in effect until 5 (five) years from the commencement of services, expected to be on or about October 1, 2026, for an expected end date of on or about September 30, 3031. The total estimated cost of the agreement over the Five (5) year and six (6) month year term is \$370,000,000. UMMC has included annual increases of ten percent (10%) for volume and three percent (3%) for possible inflation. 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.
2. **SYSTEM** – Approved the student health insurance policies with UnitedHealthcare Student Resources for use by the public university system. 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. Coverage will be available for students at all system universities as well as UMMC. The inception date of each policy 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 15th, so while dates may vary, a common term is expected to be August 15, 2026, to August 15th, 2027. For non-UMMC students, the premium will be \$2,790 per policy per year for a student, a student’s spouse, or one child, which includes broker commission and all fees. The premium for the student and all children is \$5,580, and a family premium is \$8,370. If 3,200 participants are insured, the aggregate annual premium would be approximately \$7,852,800. The aggregate premium will vary based upon the number of participants. The premiums for UMMC students, for a UMMC student’s spouse, and to add one UMMC student’s child are \$4,996. The UMMC student premiums

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for the student and all children, or the family, are \$9,992 and \$14,988 respectively. 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. 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. **MUW** – Approved the request to enter the two-year renewal with BSN Sports LLC to provide Adidas sports attire at a discounted rate to the MUW Athletics Department. The agreement provides Premier Pricing, a 10% annual rebate, and a product signing bonus. The rebate is accrued on all purchases made by athletics and can be used for any products BSN offers, both athletic wear and equipment within the fiscal year purchased. The renewal of the agreement will start July 2026 and end June 2028. The current agreement, ending June 2026, allows the parties to renew the agreement in writing ninety (90) days before the first agreement term ends for the two (2) year term. The total cost of the contract is \$300,000--Year 1 \$150,000 and Year 2 \$150,000. This contract is funded through 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.
4. **UM** – Approved the request under Board Policy 906 Educational Building Corporations to issue tax-exempt and/or taxable bonds through the University of Mississippi Educational Building Corporation (UMEBC) not to exceed \$338 million consisting of \$256 million in new money and \$82 million in potential refunding of currently outstanding debt. The loan term will not exceed 30 years. Funds will be used to finance building renovations, new construction and select demolition work for various infrastructure, renovation and new construction projects to enhance existing campus buildings and provide new academic space. Projects may include, but not be limited to, a new School of Accountancy building, renovations and new construction for a new early learning and evaluation center, multiple infrastructure projects (mechanical plants, road work, plumbing, etc.), the renovations and new construction for new music and theater arts facilities, the renovation of various research labs and other improvements to support the research master plan, and the renovation of other academic buildings. The combined project funding is \$332,375,000: \$38,025,608 in private gifts; \$50,163,239 in currently appropriated state funding; \$10,801,003 in internal cash reserves; and \$233,385,150 in UMEBC bond proceeds. The Board also approved the request to refund all or a portion of outstanding UMEBC revenue bonds if independent analysis showing potential net present value (NPV) savings meets specific levels. These refundings would not exceed \$82 million. UM expects to issue up to a maximum of \$338 million par value, fixed rate bonds. A maximum of \$256 million in proceeds from the bond issue will support the project funds, capitalized interest, cost of issuance and the underwriter's discount. A maximum of \$82 million in proceeds will support the potential refunding of currently outstanding debt. Based on the Financial Advisor's report dated December 17, 2025, the proposed debt amortization the new \$256 million will have an average annual debt payment of \$16,657,975 at an expected all in true

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interest cost of 4.76 percent. The debt will be serviced with tuition revenue and the ability to service the debt is supported by the Financial Advisors report. 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. **DSU** – Intent to offer the following certificate program:
Certificate program title: Leading AI-Driven Transformation and Impact
Responsible academic unit: Accountancy, Computer Information Systems, and Geospatial Information Technologies
Level: post-baccalaureate
Total credit hours: 12
CIP code: 52.0201
Effective date: May 2026

FINANCE AND BUDGET

2. **UMMC** – On January 16, 2026, the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS) as the contracting agent for UMMC, entered into Order Form 530972 under the current Master Subscription Agreement with Workday, Inc. (Workday). Order Form 530972 is a Subscription Growth Acknowledgement order for additional licenses for Workday Student Service software. This is for the true-up of additional, annual licenses for the Workday Student Service software used to manage and streamline administrative processes of the student experience such as student records, academic advising, registration and enrollment, financial aid, billing, and payments. The term of Order Form 530972 is for the period January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026. The term of the Master Subscription Agreement will remain unchanged and will expire January 18, 2028. The total cost for Order Form 530972 is \$14,475. The total cost of the Master Subscription will now be \$27,573,704.60.

REAL ESTATE

3. **SYSTEM** – The Board received the Real Estate items that were approved by the Board staff subsequent to the February 19, 2026 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 Board Policy 1102.04 Emergency Approval of Outside Counsel in Between Board Meetings, Trustee Jimmy Heidelberg, as Board Legal Committee Chair, on behalf of the Board, approved the University of Mississippi Medical Center's

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emergency request to hire attorney Jim Griszczak of McDonald Hopkins, LLC as outside counsel to provide legal services related to a cyber incident. The term of the contract is one-year effective February 19, 2026, unless terminated earlier by either party. Services are provided at the hourly rates of \$415 for lead attorney, Jim Griszczak, \$345 for associate attorneys, and \$190 for paralegal services, with a maximum amount payable of \$75,000 under the term of the agreement. UMMC is insured for cyber incident response and carries a deductible for legal services related to a covered incident of \$5,000. Therefore, UMMC will not be responsible for more than \$5,000 of the \$75,000 maximum amount payable under the agreement. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$5 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$5 million. This agreement is pending approval of the Office of 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 24, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Short-Term Lease Agreement between Alcorn State University and Alcorn State University Foundation, Inc. for the President’s Home property located at 1000 ASU Drive, Lorman, MS for the purpose of allowing the Foundation to fund, plan, oversee and complete improvements to this property. Improvements will include electrical work, carport construction/renovation and landscaping. The term of the lease is February 16, 2026 through February 16, 2027. The Foundation has allocated up to \$250,000 to fund the project and will bear all costs of the improvements. All improvements made to and on the property will become the property of the University upon termination of the lease. 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.
 - b. **MSU** – On February 9, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between Mississippi State University and Mississippi Hardware Master Tenant, LLC for approximately 1,948 square feet of space in the MCITY Building in Vicksburg, MS in which to house the MSU Center for Entrepreneurship and Outreach. The term of the lease is one year beginning February 1, 2026 at a cost of \$1,000 per month or \$12,000 in total. Payment is due on the first working day of each month and will be funded by a grant awarded to MSU by the Small Business Administration. MSU has confirmed that the lease is in compliance with the terms of that grant and is otherwise legally permissible. 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 and Policy 707.03 Approval for Prepayment for Goods or Services. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
 - c. **MSU** – On February 9, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between Mississippi State University and Anthony’s Rental, LLC for office space located at 805 3rd Street SW, Magee, MS in which to house a MS

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LIFT Resource and Referral Center operated by the University in accordance with the terms of a grant awarded to the University by the Mississippi Department of Human Services. The term of the lease is one-year effective March 16, 2026. The total cost of the agreement is \$39,600 payable in 12 monthly installments of \$3,300 each with payments due on the first of each month. 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 and Policy 707.03 Approval for Prepayment for Goods or Services. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.

- d. **MSU** – On February 9, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between Mississippi State University and Itawamba Community College for office space located on the campus in which to house a MS LIFT Resource and Referral Center operated by the University in accordance with the terms of a grant awarded to the University by the Mississippi Department of Human Services. The term of the lease is one-year effective March 1, 2026. The total cost of the agreement is \$56,658 payable in 12 monthly installments of \$4,721.50 each with payments due on the first of each month. 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 and Policy 707.03 Approval for Prepayment for Goods or Services. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- e. **MSU** – On February 16, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between Mississippi State University and Pearl River Community College for space in property owned by Pearl River Community College and located at 206 Highway 11, North, Poplarville, MS for a MS LIFT Resource and Referral Center operated by the University in accordance with the terms of a grant awarded to the University by the Mississippi Department of Human Services. The term of the lease is one-year effective March 1, 2026. The total cost of the agreement is \$66,500 payable in 12 monthly installments of \$5,541.67 each with payments due on the first of each month. 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 and Policy 707.03 Approval for Prepayment for Goods or Services. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- f. **MSU** – On February 24, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between Mississippi State University and the Starkville Oktibbeha Consolidated School District (SOCSD) for the provision of land on the MSU Campus in Starkville, MS for the construction of a new high school built by the SOCSD. MSU has previously participated in a partnership and Ground Lease with SOCSD, which was approved by the IHL Board in March 2017, providing land on which a partnership school facility was constructed. The parties now wish to add a high school to that facility. There is a 3-year construction term of the lease beginning and upon completion of the construction, the term of the lease will be 30 years. The lease will automatically renew for another 30 years unless the parties

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mutually agree to not exercise this renewal. 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.

- g. **USM** – On February 25, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the First Amendment to the Lease Agreement between the University of Southern Mississippi and Tech Boone, LLC for space on the first floor of the R.C. Cook University Union. The original lease received Commissioner approval in March 2024 and originally had a termination date of May 5, 2026. The parties mutually agree to amend the term of the lease to terminate on February 28, 2026 and to prorate the monthly rent for the number of days occupied during the final month. 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.

**COMMITTEE REPORT
JOINT MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND BUDGET
COMMITTEE AND THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 18, 2026**

Committee members participated in the meeting in person or via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. Trustee Charlie Stephenson is the chair of the Finance and Budget Committee, and Trustee Jerry Griffith is the chair of the Audit Committee. Trustee Stephenson presided.

1. The Committee received and discussed the fiscal year 2025 financial and Federal single audit from the external auditors, Forvis Mazars. **No action was taken.**
2. On motion by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Cunningham, with Trustee Cummings absent and not voting and Trustee Arrington participating via Zoom, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to adjourn.

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

**HEALTH AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE REPORT
Wednesday, 18, 2026**

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.

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1. The Committee discussed the monthly financial summary. **No action was taken.**
2. Executive Session

On motion by Trustee Rader, seconded by Trustee Heidelberg, with Trustee Cummings absent and not voting and Trustee Arrington participating via Zoom, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an Executive Session. Trustees Arrington and Clark recused themselves from discussing or voting. Trustee Arrington was placed in the Zoom waiting room and Trustee Clark left the room before any discussion or vote on the items. On motion by Trustee Martin, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, with Trustees Arrington, Clark, and Cummings absent and not voting, 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:

The first item involves the transaction of business and discussion regarding prospective strategic business decisions of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, including without limitation, decisions to open a new service line, implementation of capital improvements, or file applications for certificates of need or determinations with the State Department of Health.

The second item is an update on the recent cyber incident, including a discussion of a report about information technology security plans, potential violations of law, and confidential legal advice.

The third item involves the transaction of business and discussion regarding prospective strategic business decisions of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, including without limitation, decisions to open a new service line, implement capital improvements, or file applications of certificates of need or determinations with the State Department of Health and confidential legal advice.

During Executive Session, the following matters were discussed:

Trustee Arrington remained in the Zoom waiting room for the discussion of the first topic. Trustee Clark returned to the room for the discussion. The Committee discussed the transaction of business and discussion regarding prospective strategic business decisions of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, including without limitation, decisions to open a new service line, implementation of capital improvements, or file applications for certificates of need or determinations with the State Department of Health. **No action was taken.**

The Committee received an update on the recent cyber incident, including a discussion of a report about information technology security plans, potential violations of law, and confidential legal advice. **No action was taken.**

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Following the discussion of items one and two, Trustee Arrington was readmitted to the Zoom meeting for the discussion of the third item. Trustee Clark recused himself from discussing or voting on the third item by leaving the room prior to any discussion.

The Committee discussed the transaction of business and discussion regarding prospective strategic business decisions of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, including without limitation, decisions to open a new service line, implement capital improvements, or file applications of certificates of need or determinations with the State Department of Health and received confidential legal advice. **No action was taken.**

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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENT

President Ogletree announced the next meeting will be April 16, 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The Board will discuss two topics in executive session, the discussion of which in open session would be detrimental to IHL's legal interest. The first topic is a personnel matter involving the performance of a particular employed holding specific positions at the Mississippi University for Women. In connection with the Jackson State University presidential search, the second topic involves the transaction of business and discussion of personnel matters to the job performance, character, and professional competence of a person holding a specific position at Jackson State University. The Board will also receive and discuss confidential legal advice from the attorney concerning compliance with federal and state law regarding the search. The discussion of these items in open session would be detrimental to IHL's legal interest.

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

The Board discussed a personnel matter involving the performance of a particular employee holding specific positions at the Mississippi University for Women. **No action was taken.**

The Board discussed the transaction of business and discussed personnel matters to the job performance, character, and professional competence of a person holding a specific position at Jackson State University. The Board will also receive and discuss confidential legal advice from the attorney concerning compliance with federal and state law regarding the search. **No action was taken.**

On motion by Trustee Heidelberg, seconded by Trustee Cummings, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to return to Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Trustee Stephenson, seconded by Trustee Heidelberg, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

President, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning

Commissioner, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
March 19, 2026**

EXHIBITS

- Exhibit 1 Real Estate items that were approved by the IHL Board staff subsequent to the February 19, 2026 Board meeting.
- Exhibit 2 Report of the payment of legal fees to outside counsel.

EXHIBIT 1

March 19, 2026

SYSTEM: REAL ESTATE ITEMS APPROVED SUBSEQUENT TO THE JANUARY 22, 2026, 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 – DORMITORY RENOVATIONS

Approval Request 1: Change Order #7

Board staff approved Change Order #7 in the amount of \$66,720.00 and eighteen (18) additional days as submitted by Paul Jackson & Son, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 10, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #7 includes the following: installation of 280 linear feet of 6" C900 pipe, casing and fittings, and thrust blocks for concurrently running project at Robinson Hall.

Justification: This change order was necessary due to User/Owner requested modifications.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Seven (7) total change orders in the amount of \$1,114,839.00.

Project Initiation Date: June 15, 2023

Design Professional: Burris / Wagnon Architects

General Contractor: Paul Jackson & Son, Inc.

Total Project Budget: \$7,280,000.00

2. ASU-IHL 201-264 – MATT THOMAS JR. GARDEN APARTMENTS RENOVATIONS PHASE I

Approval Request 1: Change Order #3

Board staff approved Change Order #3 in the amount of \$13,150.00 and fourteen (14) additional days as submitted by Barnard & Sons Construction, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 16, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #3 includes the following: providing underground electrical service and panels to Buildings C and D.

Justification: This change order was necessary due to Latent Job Site Conditions.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Three (3) total change orders in the amount of \$70,588.00.

EXHIBIT 1

March 19, 2026

Project Initiation Date: March 21, 2024

Design Professional: Canizaro Cawthon Davis, P.A.

General Contractor: Barnard & Sons Construction, LLC

Total Project Budget: \$2,750,000.00

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Approval Request #1: Appointment of Commissioning Agent

Board staff approved the appointment of SINERGI Integrated Building Sciences, LLC as the Commissioning Agent for the project.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 16, 2026

Approval Request #2: Award of Construction Contract

Board staff approved the Award of Contract in the amount of \$4,191,500.00 to the apparent low bidder, Timbo's Construction, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 16, 2026

Project Initiation Date: November 21, 2024

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

General Contractor: Timbo's Construction, Inc.

Total Project Budget: \$5,344,974.90

4. **DSU-GS 102-292A – HAIL DAMAGE REPAIRS**

Approval Request: Waiver of Design Development Documents

Board staff approved the waiver of Design Development Documents as submitted by Shafer Zahner Zahner, PLLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 16, 2026

Project Initiation Date: June 20, 2024

Design Professional: Shafer Zahner Zahner, PLLC

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$2,800,000.00

5. **DSU-GS 102-295 – WARD HALL RENOVATIONS**

Approval Request #1: Appointment of Commissioning Agent

Board staff approved the appointment of SINERGI Integrated Building Sciences, LLC as the Commissioning Agent for the project.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 16, 2026

Approval Request #2: Schematic Design Documents

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

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 9, 2026

Project Initiation Date: May 15, 2025

Design Professional: ArchitectureSouth, P.A.

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$6,000,000.00

EXHIBIT 1

March 19, 2026

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

6. JSU-GS 103-319 – RESIDENCE HALL RENOVATION (MCALISTER WHITESIDE)

Approval Request #1 (INTERIM): Budget Increase & Addition of Funding Source

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 February 11, 2026, to approve the budget increase from \$27,089,500.00 to \$27,602,500.63, for an increase of \$513,000.63. Revised funding for the project is SB 2971, Laws of 2021 (\$250,000.00), SB 3065, Laws of 2019 (\$500,000.00), HB 1816, Laws of 2024 (\$8,013,000.00) and HB 1131, Laws of 2025 (\$18,839,500.63).

Interim Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 11, 2026

Approval Request #2: Award of Construction Contract

Board staff approved the Award of Contract in the amount of \$22,097,000.00 to the apparent low bidder, Fountain Construction Co., Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 19, 2026

Project Initiation Date: October 19, 2023

Design Professional: Foil Wyatt Architects & Planners

General Contractor: Fountain Construction Company, Inc.

Phased Project Budget: \$25,566,704.34

Total Project Budget: \$27,602,500.63

7. JSU-GS 103-322 APRA INFRASTRUCTURE WASTE COLLECTION & CONVEYANCE

Approval Request: Change Order #2

Board staff approved Change Order #2 in the amount of \$1,552,175.00 and ninety (90) additional days to the contract of Hemphill Construction Company, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 19, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #2 includes the following: proceeding with original Alternate C for removal and replacement of 900 linear feet of 8” sewer with 348 linear feet of CIPP lining, point repairs manhole restoration, curb and gutter roadway repairs and select backfill bedding. This Change Order also includes proceeding with original Alternate D for removal and replacement of an additional 799 linear feet of 8” sewer with point repairs, manhole lining restoration, curb and gutter roadway repairs, select backfill bedding and seeding/sodding. Proceeding with Alternates C and D are a result of additional ARPA funds being added to the project.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Two (2) change orders for a total amount of \$1,709,896.00.

Project Initiation Date: October 17, 2024

Design Professional: Pickering Firm, Inc.

General Contractor: Hemphill Construction Company, Inc.

Total Project Budget: \$6,784,069.80

EXHIBIT 1

March 19, 2026

8. **JSU-GS 103-343 JOC TB ELLIS ROOFING IMPROVEMENTS**

Approval Request #1: Construction Documents

Board staff approved Construction Documents as submitted by Vernell Barnes Architect, PLLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 20, 2026

Approval Request #2: Award of Construction Contract

Board staff approved the Award of Contract in the amount of \$1,700,366.14 to the apparent low bidder, Alliant Construction.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 20, 2026

Project Initiation Date: February 18, 2021

Design Professional: Vernell Barnes Architect, PLLC

General Contractor: Alliant Construction

Total Project Budget: \$3,000,000.00

9. **JSU-GS 103-344 JOC TB ELLIS INTERIOR RENOVATIONS**

Approval Request #1: Construction Documents

Board staff approved Construction Documents as submitted by Eley Guild Hardy Architects.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 20, 2026

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

10. **MSU-IHL 205-328A NEW RESIDENCE HALL SITE AND FOUNDATION**

Approval Request: Change Order #6

Board staff approved Change Order #6 in the amount of \$47,090.00 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Roy Anderson Corporation.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 2, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #6 includes the following: costs associated with replacing the bedding material for storm drainage trenches, from sand to stone.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Eight (8) change orders for a total amount of \$1,834,481.09.

Project Initiation Date: October 25, 2022

Design Professional: Weir Boerner Allin Architecture

CMA: Hoar Program Management

General Contractor: Roy Anderson Corporation

Phased Project Budget: \$5,600,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$103,500,000.00

EXHIBIT 1

March 19, 2026

11. MSU-IHL 205-328B NEW RESIDENCE HALL (AZALEA HALL)

Approval Request: Change Order #8

Board staff approved Change Order #8 in the amount of \$103,854.00 and thirty (30) additional days to the contract of Roy Anderson Corporation.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 2, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #8 includes the following: costs associated with the scope revisions made to replace the storm shelter entry door, costs associated with replacing the bedding material for storm drain trenches, costs associated with performing Ground Penetrating Radar scanning and coring of mechanical, plumbing and electrical penetrations in concrete shear walls installed under the Site & Foundations package, and GFRC & limestone profile changes.

Change Order Justification: This change order was necessary due to errors and omissions in the plans and specifications, and user/owner requested modifications.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Eight (8) change orders for a total amount of \$1,834,481.09.

Project Initiation Date: October 25, 2022

Design Professional: Weir 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

12. MSU-IHL 205-336 SOUTH CAMPUS MECHANICAL PLANT, BID PACKAGE B

Approval Request: Change Order #5

Board staff approved Change Order #5 in the *credit* amount of \$14,446.30 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of ECON Construction, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 5, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #5 includes the following: deduction from the contractor's scope of work due to moving work to the Dorman Hall project, installation of a junction box at the location of a 13Kv line, with concrete poured over the line, and installation of an underground drain and connection to an installed junction box.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Five (5) change orders for a total amount of \$37,923.93.

Project Initiation Date: June 15, 2023

Design Professional: Eley Guild Hardy Architects, P.A.

CMA: Innovative Construction Management

General Contractor: ECON Construction, Inc.

Phased Project Budget: \$1,863,378.93

Total Project Budget: \$35,000,000.00

EXHIBIT 1

March 19, 2026

13. MSU-IHL 205-336 SOUTH CAMPUS MECHANICAL PLANT, BID PACKAGE L

Approval Request: Change Order #1

Board staff approved Change Order #1 in the *credit* amount of \$64,353.37 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of SGK Landscapes, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 5, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #1 includes the following: deduction from the contractor's scope of work due to work being removed, removal of 2 zones of irrigation located on the south side of the ABE Building, removal of 4,100 square feet of landscape beds located on the south side of the ABE Building, removal of proposed plants and trees located on the south side of the ABE Building, removal of proposed sod located on the south side of the building.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: One (1) change order for a total *credit* amount of \$64,353.37.

Project Initiation Date: June 15, 2023

Design Professional: Eley Guild Hardy Architects, P.A.

CMA: Innovative Construction Management

General Contractor: SGK Landscapes, Inc.

Phased Project Budget: \$317,872.63

Total Project Budget: \$35,000,000.00

14. MSU-IHL 205-359 WISE CENTER RENOVATION AND ADDITION – FARM ANIMAL HOSPITAL (Bid Package L)

Approval Request: Award of Construction Contract

Board staff approved the Award of Contract in the amount of \$293,350.00 to the apparent low bidder, Scott & Sons Construction & Mechanical Services, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 5, 2026

Project Initiation Date: October 17, 2024

Design Professional: Eley Guild Hardy Architects, P.A.

15. MSU-IHL 405-003B HOWELL HALL ADDITIONS AND RENOVATIONS

Approval Request: Change Order #3

Board staff approved Change Order #3 in the amount of \$25,688.15 and thirty (30) additional days to the contract of West Brothers Construction.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 2, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #3 includes the following: demolition of CMU wall between Corridor 1100 and Drawing Lab 1110 and rebuilding wall with metal studs, insulation and finish gyp board, structural steel modifications, adding nutall oaks, tree protection fencing revisions, revisions to site concrete walls, and revisions to concrete pavers for fire lane accommodation, adding cane detection rail, steel beam, kickers and straps for joists, adding compressed air hose reels to Art Wood Shop and Print Making Studio, modifications to door hardware items, and a credit for the controls allowance.

EXHIBIT 1

March 19, 2026

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Six (6) change orders for a total amount of \$611,104.59.

Project Initiation Date: August 19, 2021

Design Professional: Belinda Stewarts Architects and Wier Boerner Allin Architecture

General Contractor: West Brothers Construction

Phased Project Budget: \$26,500,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$35,732,500.00

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

16. UM-IHL 407-011 EARLY LEARNING AND EVALUATION CENTER

Approval Request: Change Order #2

Board staff approved Change Order #2 in the amount of \$461,374.94 and sixteen (16) additional days to the contract of Innovative Construction Management, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 17, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #2 includes the following: renovations to existing corridors, addition of storm drainage piping to storm detention center, foundation and structural steel changes to infill the west alley space between buildings and modifications to the structural steel for the mechanical room on the second floor.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Two (2) change orders for a total amount of \$1,581,871.83.

Project Initiation Date: June 16, 2022

Design Professional: McCarty Architects, P.A.

General Contractor: Innovative Construction Management, LLC

Phased Project Budget: \$37,798,235.65

Total Project Budget: \$39,275,000.00

17. UM – IHL 207-468.1B ART, THEATRE & FILM DEPARTMENT FACILITIES (MUSIC HALL)

Approval Request: Schematic Design Documents

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

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 27, 2026

Project Initiation Date: November 19, 2020

Design Professional: Eley Guild Hardy Architects, P.A.

General Contractor: TBD

Phased Project Budget: \$16,500,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$35,938,912.00

EXHIBIT 1

March 19, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

18. UMMC-IHL 209-579 – UMMC COLONY PARK

Approval Request: Change Order #25

Board staff approved Change Order #25 in the amount of \$84,370.04 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Codaray Construction, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 16, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #25 includes the following: moving card readers, adding power, data and blocking where required in nine (9) rooms, hiring a 3rd party to test the fire alarm systems, connecting fire pump to emergency power, changing the hardware on four (4) doors in the MOB from electrified trim to a passage function trim, adding a nurse call system in the PET CT control room, adding exit signs and fire pull station at the north egress door to the lobby, adding a fire pull station at the egress door on the south end of the ASC, and adding a starter circuit between the fire pump controllers and the generators.

Change Order Justification: This change order was necessary due to changes in requirements or recommendation of a governmental entity, errors and omissions in the plans and specifications, and user/owner requested modifications.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Twenty-Five (25) change orders for a total amount of \$6,003,738.80.

Project Initiation Date: June 16, 2022

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

General Contractor: Codaray Construction, LLC

Total Project Budget: \$107,910,527.00

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

19. USM-IHL 214-024 – GULF PARK LANGUAGE & SPEECH THERAPY CENTER

Approval Request: Change Order #1

Board staff approved Change Order #1 in the *credit* amount of \$17,517.00 and forty-eight (48) additional days to the contract of JW Puckett & Company, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 3, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #1 includes the following: HVAC piping below grade separation, sanitary piping routing revision, deletion of acoustical partitions from the work, an increase in the size of the in-ground data conduit, locating the in-ground HVAC hot and cold water supply and return lines, addition of steel for elevator support, addition of exterior valves for hot and cold water HVAC supply and return lines, additional data cabling for exterior wall access control doors, millwork revisions for the DuBard classrooms, door hardware revisions, and a credit for the Building Automated Systems (BAS) allowance.

Change Order Justification: This change order was necessary due to weather delays and user/owner requested modifications.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: One (1) change orders for a total *credit* amount of \$17,517.00.

EXHIBIT 1

March 19, 2026

Project Initiation Date: June 16, 2022
Design Professional: MP Design Group
General Contractor: JW Puckett & Company, Inc.
Total Project Budget: \$12,400,000.00

EDUCATION & RESEARCH CENTER

20. ERC – GS 111-078 IHL PLUMBING REPAIRS

Approval Request: Schematic Design Documents

Board staff approved the Schematic Design Documents as submitted by Boggan & Vaughn Architects.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 11, 2026

Project Initiation Date: August 21, 2025

Design Professional: Boggan & Vaughn Architects

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$100,000.00 (Design Fees Only)

21. ERC – GS 111-079 IHL WINDOW REPAIRS

Approval Request: Change Order #1

Board staff approved Change Order #1 in the amount of \$6,000.00 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of SPF Window Films, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 2, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #1 includes the following: additional beads of silicone to 32 windows, frame to frame across the top joint.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: One (1) change order for a total amount of \$6,000.00.

Project Initiation Date: August 6, 2025

Design Professional: Engineering Resource Group, Inc.

General Contractor: SPF Window Films, LLC

Total Project Budget: \$600,000.00

EXHIBIT 2

March 19, 2026

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 Jones Walker (statement dated 2/19/26) from the funds of the IHL System Office. (This statement, in the amount of \$28,862.75, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 28,862.75

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mayo Mallette, PLLC (statement dated 11/13/25 from the funds of Jackson State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$88.00, represents services and expenses in connection with an immigration/labor certification matter.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 88.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Brunini, Grower, Grantham and Hewes, PLLC (statements dated 2/17/26 and 2/17/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$262.50 and \$612.50, represent services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 875.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush, PA (statement dated 2/19/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$6,739.00, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 6,739.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statements dated 1/12/26, 1/26/26, 2/10/26, 2/10/26, 2/10/26 and 2/19/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$2,650.00, \$2,650.00, \$569.00, \$2,650.00, \$2,650.00 and \$160.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 11,329.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Lightfoot Franklin White, LLC (statement dated 2/16/26) from the funds of Mississippi Valley State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$360.50, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 360.50

EXHIBIT 2

March 19, 2026

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statement dated 2/17/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$10,110.50, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 10,110.50

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Kaplan Kirsch, LLP (statement dated 1/28/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$1,187.50, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,187.50

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Alexander Law, P.A. (statements dated 1/6/26, 1/6/26, 1/6/26, 1/6/26, and 1/6/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$1,140.50, \$306.00, \$420.50, \$411.50 and \$3,920.50, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 6,199.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 1/21/26, 1/21/26, 1/21/26, 1/21/26, 1/21/26, 1/21/26, 1/21/26, 1/22/26 and 1/28/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$4,687.50, \$136.00, \$13,799.60, \$738.10, \$586.40, \$182.50, \$2,858.50, \$7,712.44 and \$1,131.50, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 31,832.54

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Forman Watkins & Krutz, LLP (statements dated 12/22/25, 12/22/25 and 1/12/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$225.00, \$2,061.00 and \$6,076.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 8,362.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Gore, Kilpatrick & Dambrino, PLLC (statement dated 12/29/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (This statement, in the amount of \$140.00, represents services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 140.00

EXHIBIT 2

March 19, 2026

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Hogan Lovells, US, LLP (statements dated 10/31/25, 10/31/25 and 11/25/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$328.50, \$328.50 and \$219.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 876.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mayo Mallette, PLLC (statement dated 1/6/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (This statement, in the amount of \$805.00, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 805.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Page, Kruger & Holland, PA (statements dated 1/5/26, 1/5/26, 1/5/26, 1/5/26 and 1/6/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$880.80, \$719.00, \$141.00, \$80.00 and \$80.00, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,900.80

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Vernis & Bowling of Mississippi, PLLC (statements dated 11/25/25, 11/25/25, 11/25/25, 11/25/25, 11/25/25, 11/25/25, 12/23/25, 12/23/25 and 12/23/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$2,990.50, \$11,154.00, \$1,453.50, \$2,321.50, \$5,901.50, \$862.50, \$167.50, \$247.50 and \$892.20, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 25,990.70

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Walker & Ungo Immigration Law Firm (statements dated 12/23/25, 1/15/26, 1/15/26, 1/15/26, 1/16/26 and 1/16/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$3,000.00, \$500.00, \$2,000.00, \$2,000.00, \$2,000.00 and \$3,520.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 13,020.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Watkins & Eager, PLLC (statements dated 1/8/26, 1/9/26, 1/13/26, 1/13/26, 1/13/26, 1/13/26, 1/13/26, 1/13/26, 1/13/26, 1/14/26, 1/20/26, 1/20/26 and 1/20/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$420.00, \$1,619.00, \$181.50, \$593.55, \$100.00, \$945.00, \$350.00, \$2,415.00, \$1,750.00, \$245.00, \$525.00, \$980.00 and \$280.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 10,404.05

EXHIBIT 2

March 19, 2026

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by the Wise Carter Child & Caraway, PA (statements dated 1/6/26 and 1/6/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$3,020.00 and \$325.00, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 3,345.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statement dated 1/9/26) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$7,976.20, represents services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 7,976.20

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statement dated 2/2/26) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$24.01, represents services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 24.01

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway, PA (statements dated 9/10/25 and 11/10/25) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$247.50 and \$675.00, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 922.50

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 Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP (statements dated 2/19/25, 2/19/25, 9/10/25, 12/11/25 and 1/9/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$1,393.50, \$2,985.50, \$157.50, \$94.50 and \$721.50, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 5,352.50

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 1/21/26 and 2/18/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$1,274.00 and \$675.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,949.00

EXHIBIT 2

March 19, 2026

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Conley Rose, P.C. (statement dated 2/4/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$2,500.00, represents services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 2,500.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mendelsohn Dunleavy, P.C. (statements dated 11/6/25, 2/9/26, 2/9/26, 2/9/26, 2/9/26 and 2/9/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$3,446.50, \$230.00, \$2,289.79, \$671.50, \$816.00 and \$963.50, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 8,417.29

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Stites & Harbison, PLLC (statements dated 1/23/26, 1/23/26, 1/23/26, 1/23/26, 1/23/26, 2/24/26 and 2/24/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$3,256.50, \$518.50, \$715.50, \$2,088.00, \$2,203.50, \$1,784.50 and \$357.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 10,923.50

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 12/29/25, 12/29/25, 1/21/26, 1/21/26, 1/21/26 and 1/21/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$255.50, \$20,638.00, \$511.00, \$1,794.00, \$65.00 and \$438.00, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 23,701.50

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Stites & Harbison, PLLC (statement dated 1/23/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (This statement, in the amount of \$684.00, represents services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 684.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Workman Nydegger (statement dated 12/12/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (This statement, in the amount of \$1,995.00, represents services and expenses in connection with intellectual property patents.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,995.00

EXHIBIT 2

March 19, 2026

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 11/25/25, 11/25/25, 11/25/25, 11/25/25 11/25/25 and 2/18/26) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$7,461.00, \$4,084.00, \$817.50, \$270.00, \$337.50 and \$2,829.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 15,799.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mendelsohn Dunleavy, P.C. (statements dated 10/10/25, 10/10/25, 10/10/25, 10/10/25, 10/10/25, 10/10/25 and 12/8/25) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$210.00, \$210.00, \$210.00, \$245.00, \$720.00, \$400.00 and \$7,714.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 9,709.00

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
March 19-20, 2026**

BE IT REMEMBERED, That the Jackson State University Board Search Committee met at the Board Office in Jackson, Mississippi at approximately 1:00 p.m. on March 19, 2026, and pursuant to notice in writing, to each and every member of said Committee. The following members participated: Dr. Steven Cunningham (Chair), Ms. Amy Arrington, Mr. Don Clark, Dr. Ormella Cummings, Mr. Jerry L. Griffith, Mr. Jimmy Heidelberg, Ms. Teresa Hubbard, Mr. Bruce Martin, Mr. Gee Ogletree, Mr. Hal Parker, Mr. Gregg Rader, and Mr. Charlie Stephenson. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cunningham.

Chairman Cunningham welcomed the Search Advisory Constituency members to their third meeting with the Jackson State University Board Search Committee. The following SAC members were present:

- Dr. Nicholas J. Hill—Dean, College of Business, Jackson State University
- Dr. Candice L. Jackson—Secretary, Jackson State University Faculty Senate, and Associate Professor, Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Speech Communications, Jackson State University (via Zoom)
- Dr. Deidre L. Wheaton—Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Development
- Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert Crear—Advisory Board, Jackson State University Development Foundation
- Patrease Edwards—President, Jackson State University National Alumni Association

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Trustee Stephenson, seconded by Trustee Rader, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an Executive Session. On motion by Trustee Stephenson, seconded by Trustee Clark, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously **to enter Executive Session** for the reason reported to the public and stated in these minutes, as follows:

In connection with the Jackson State University presidential search, the JSU Board Search Committee will transact business and discuss personnel matters involving the performance, character, and professional competence of individuals applying for the position at Jackson State University. They will also receive and discuss confidential legal advice from our counsel concerning compliance with federal and state law regarding the search. The discussion of these items in open session would be detrimental to IHL's legal interest.

During Executive Session, the following matter was discussed:

The JSU Board Search Committee transacted business and discussed personnel matters involving the performance, character, and professional competence of individuals applying for the position at Jackson State University. They also received and discussed confidential legal advice from our counsel concerning compliance with federal and state law regarding the search. **No action was taken.**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
March 19-20, 2026**

On motion by Trustee Martin, seconded by Trustee Cummings, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to return to Open Session.

On motion by Trustee Rader, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to recess the meeting until 8:00 a.m. on March 20, 2026.

The meeting reconvened at the Board Office in Jackson, Mississippi, at approximately 8:00 a.m., on March 20, 2026. The following members were present to wit: The following members participated: Dr. Steven Cunningham (Chair), Ms. Amy Arrington, Mr. Don Clark, Dr. Ormella Cummings, Mr. Jerry L. Griffith, Mr. Jimmy Heidelberg, Ms. Teresa Hubbard, Mr. Bruce Martin (via Zoom), Mr. Gee Ogletree, Mr. Hal Parker, Mr. Gregg Rader, and Mr. Charlie Stephenson. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cunningham.

The following Search Advisory Constituency members were present:

- Dr. Nicholas J. Hill—Dean, College of Business, Jackson State University
- Dr. Candice L. Jackson—Secretary, Jackson State University Faculty Senate, and Associate Professor, Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Speech Communications, Jackson State University
- Dr. Deidre L. Wheaton—Associate Dean, College of Education and Human Development
- Brigadier General (Ret.) Robert Crear—Advisory Board, Jackson State University Development Foundation
- Patrease Edwards—President, Jackson State University National Alumni Association

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Trustee Griffith, seconded by Trustee Rader, with Trustee Parker absent and not voting and Trustee Martin participating via Zoom, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an Executive Session. On motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Heidelberg, with Trustee Parker absent and not voting and Trustee Martin participating via Zoom, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously **to enter Executive Session** for the reason reported to the public and stated in these minutes, as follows:

In connection with the Jackson State University presidential search, the JSU Board Search Committee will transact business and discuss personnel matters involving the performance, character, and professional competence of individuals applying for the position at Jackson State University. They will also receive and discuss confidential legal advice from our counsel concerning compliance with federal and state law regarding the search. The discussion of these items in open session would be detrimental to IHL's legal interest.

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
March 19-20, 2026**

During Executive Session, the following matter was discussed:

The JSU Board Search Committee transacted business and discussed personnel matters involving the performance, character, and professional competence of individuals applying for the position at Jackson State University. They also received and discussed confidential legal advice from our counsel concerning compliance with federal and state law regarding the search. **No action was taken.**

On motion by Trustee Ogletree, seconded by Trustee Heidelberg, with Trustee Cummings absent and not voting and Trustee Martin participating via Zoom, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to return to Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

President, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning

Commissioner, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
CONSENT AGENDA
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
APRIL 16, 2026

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, the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the University of Southern Mississippi request approval for the modification of existing academic degree programs.

RENAMING

- A. **UMMC** - *Current program title:* Master of Science (MS) in Population Health Science
Proposed program title: Master of Science (MS) in Population Health
CIP code, sequence: 51.2208, 4595
Total credit hours: 33
Effective date: May 2026
Rationale: The School of Population Health examined the titles of comparable programs across the nation. The proposed name change is a more common name for the program and will make it easier for prospective students to compare UMMC’s program to other programs nationally.
- B. **USM** - *Current program title:* Master of Art in Teaching (MAT) in Secondary Teacher Education (Alternate Route)
Proposed program title: Master of Art in Teaching (MAT) in Secondary Education
CIP code, sequence: 13.1205, 4485
Total credit hours: 33
Effective date: August 2026
Rationale: The proposed name change simplifies the degree title by eliminating an unnecessary and confusing emphasis within the existing program title.
- C. **USM** - *Current program title:* Education Specialist (EdS) in Education
Proposed program title: Education Specialist (EdS) in Educational Administration P-12
Current CIP code, sequence: 13.0101, 3053
New CIP code, sequence: 13.0401, 3053
Total credit hours: 33
Effective date: August 2026
Rationale: The proposed name change is expected to positively impact the institution by strengthening its reputation as a leader in educational leadership training and practice. By elevating the program’s title to "Educational Administration P-12," the modification will enhance the program’s visibility and attract a broader pool of prospective students seeking advanced leadership training tailored to P-12 educational settings.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
CONSENT AGENDA
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
APRIL 16, 2026**

- D. **USM - Current program title:** Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing Leadership
Proposed program title: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Nursing
Current CIP code, sequence: 51.3802, 1175
New CIP code, sequence: 51.3808, 1175
Total credit hours: 48-60
Effective date: August 2026
Rationale: The proposed name change would make the program title more broadly recognizable to prospective students while keeping all other aspects of the program unchanged. It has been noted for some time that prospective students may be deterred from enrolling in this program because of concerns that the specific “Leadership” focus could limit a broader emphasis on Nursing science and research.

CONSOLIDATING

- E. **USM – Current program titles:** Bachelor of Science (BS) in Geography and Bachelor of Science (BS) in Geology
Proposed program title: Bachelor of Science (BS) in Environmental Geosciences
Current CIP codes, sequences: 45.0701, 5639; 40.0601, 5625
New CIP code, sequence: 30.4101
Total credit hours: 120
Effective date: August 2026
Rationale: This consolidated degree program is designed to equip students with the skills necessary for work in earth and environmental fields and will provide students with hands on skills in geology, physical and human geography, sustainability, and GIS with the goal of building tangible work force ready skills sets. Graduates of this program will be equipped with the interdisciplinary knowledge and applied skills necessary to address complex environmental challenges that currently impact the states along the Gulf.

SUSPENDING

- F. **MUW – Current program titles:** Bachelor of Science (BS) in Interdisciplinary Studies
CIP code, sequence: 30.9999, 5805
Total credit hours: 124
Effective date: July 2026
Rationale: Due to prolonged lack of enrollment, this program is being presented for suspension. One student is currently enrolled and is anticipated to graduate during the 2026-27 academic year. Upon this student’s completion, the program will be deleted. Students seeking an interdisciplinary approach still have the option to enter the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree program.

DELETING

- G. **MUW – Current program titles:** Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Interdisciplinary Studies
CIP code, sequence: 30.9999, 5804
Total credit hours: 124

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
CONSENT AGENDA
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
APRIL 16, 2026**

Effective date: July 2026

Rationale: Due to prolonged lack of enrollment, this program is being presented for deletion. No students are enrolled. Students seeking an interdisciplinary approach still have the option to enter the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree program.

H. **MUW** – *Current program titles:* Bachelor of Science (BS) in Physical Sciences

CIP code, sequence: 40.0101, 5328

Total credit hours: 124

Effective date: July 2026

Rationale: Due to prolonged lack of enrollment, this program is being presented for deletion. No students are enrolled.

I. **MUW** – *Current program titles:* Bachelor of University Studies

CIP code, sequence: 24.0102, 5875

Total credit hours: 120

Effective date: July 2026

Rationale: Due to prolonged lack of enrollment, this program is being presented for deletion. No students are enrolled. Students seeking an interdisciplinary approach still have the option to enter the Bachelor of Professional Studies degree program.

J. **USM** - *Program title:* **Master of Education (MEd) in Educational Administration and Supervision**

CIP code, sequence: 13.0401, 4332

Total credit hours: 34

Effective date: August 2025

Rationale: In recent years, enrollment in the MEd fell to unsustainable levels while enrollment in the EdS and the EdD increased. Deletion of the MEd will have no impact on institutional mission or accreditation. Students wishing to earn initial licensure in administration who may have entered the MEd can enter the Educational Administration P-12 EdS program instead, which is now aligned to the Educational Administration P-12 EdD program. Robust enrollment in these programs will allow USM to continue meeting its mission while also consolidating resources.

K. **USM** - *Program title:* Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Theatre

CIP code, sequence: 50.0501, 4399

Total credit hours: 72

Effective date: August 2025

Rationale: Amidst the program review in the 2024-25 school year, funding for MFA Theatre graduate assistantships was reallocated by the university, making it difficult to attract the necessary number of students to meet the university's required graduation rates. The faculty has made the difficult decision to delete the graduate theatre program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends approval of these items.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
CONSENT AGENDA
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
APRIL 16, 2026

2. **SYSTEM – MODIFICATION OF EXISTING ACADEMIC UNITS**

In accordance with Board policies 503 and 504, Jackson State University and the University of Mississippi submit requests to modify existing academic units.

RENAMING

A. **JSU** – *Current unit:* Department of Elementary and Early Childhood Education

***Proposed Title:* Department of Curriculum and Instruction**

Unit Location: College of Education and Human Development

Effective date: August 2026

Cost of implementation: \$0

Rationale: The department supports the Education subdisciplines of Childcare & Family Education, Elementary Education, Literacy Education, Early Childhood Education, and blended Elementary & Special Education. The proposed name change more accurately represents the diverse range of programs supported within the department.

B. **UM** – *Current unit:* Department of Health, Exercise Science, and Recreation Management

***Proposed Title:* Department of Kinesiology and Sport**

Unit Location: School of Applied Sciences

Effective date: August 2026

Cost of implementation: \$0

Rationale: The department has recently undergone composition changes that warrant a name change. There are now four programs in the department: Athletic Training, Exercise Science, Sport Management, and Sport Analytics. The proposed name change better represents the current composition of the department.

C. **UM** – *Current unit:* Department of Political Science

***Proposed Title:* Ray Mabus Department of Political Science**

Unit Location: College of Liberal Arts

Effective date: July 2026

Cost of implementation: \$0

Rationale: The name change provides the University of Mississippi with the opportunity to honor the achievements of Ray Mabus (Governor, Ambassador, Secretary of the Navy). The Mabus endowment will provide funds to help undergraduate students within the major through scholarships, internships, and research opportunities, help graduate students with research and preparation for the job market, and help retain faculty within the department.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends approval of this item.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
 CONSENT AGENDA
 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
 APRIL 16, 2026**

3. SYSTEM – APPROVAL OF DEGREES TO BE CONFERRED IN SPRING 2026

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.

Inst.	Degree to be Conferred	Number	Subtotal	Total
Alcorn State University				
<i>Undergraduate</i>				
	Associate of Science in Nursing	61		
	Bachelor of Arts	57		
	Bachelor of Arts in Music	1		
	Bachelor of Business Administration	17		
	Bachelor of Science	163		
	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	46		
	Bachelor of Social Work	12		
<i>Graduate</i>				
	Master of Arts in History	2		
	Master of Business Administration	8		
	Master of Liberal Arts	5		
	Master of Science in Agriculture	15		
	Master of Science in Applied Science and Technology	8		
	Master of Science in Biology	6		
	Master of Science in Biotechnology	1		
	Master of Science in Computer and Information Science	2		
	Master of Science in Secondary Education	28		
	Master of Science in Nursing	11		
	Master of Science in Workforce Education Leadership	9		
	STEM MBA	6		
	Specialist in Education	1		
	Doctor of Nursing Practice	5		
	<i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i>		357	
	<i>Total Graduate Degrees</i>		107	
	<i>Total Degrees</i>			464

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
 CONSENT AGENDA
 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
 APRIL 16, 2026**

Delta State University				
<i>Undergraduate</i>				
	Bachelor of Applied Science	11		
	Bachelor of Arts	19		
	Bachelor of Business Administration	64		
	Bachelor of Commercial Aviation	39		
	Bachelor of Fine Arts	5		
	Bachelor of Music	1		
	Bachelor of Science in Education	26		
	Bachelor of Science	63		
	Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies	4		
	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	12		
	Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Criminology	12		
	Bachelor of Social Work	18		
	Bachelor of University Studies	2		
<i>Graduate</i>				
	Master of Applied Science	3		
	Master of Art in Liberal Studies	8		
	Master of Arts in Teaching	9		
	Master of Business Administration	33		
	Master of Commercial Aviation	5		
	Master of Education	16		
	Master of Fine Arts	2		
	Master of Professional Accountancy	1		
	Master of Science in Sport and Human Performance	13		
	Master of Science in Nursing	14		
	Master of Science in Criminal Justice and Criminology	8		
	Specialist in Education	27		
	Doctor of Education	6		
	Doctor of Nursing Practice	6		
	<i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i>		276	
	<i>Total Graduate Degrees</i>		151	
	<i>Total Degrees</i>			427

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
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Jackson State University				
<i>Undergraduate</i>				
	Bachelor of Arts	54		
	Bachelor of Business Administration	100		
	Bachelor of Music	6		
	Bachelor of Music Education	4		
	Bachelor of Science in Education	22		
	Bachelor of Science	389		
	Bachelor of Social Work	27		
	Bachelor of University Studies (C2C)	3		
<i>Graduate</i>				
	Master of Arts	12		
	Master of Arts in Teaching	14		
	Master of Business Administration	8		
	Master of Music Education	4		
	Master of Public Health	4		
	Master of Public Policy and Administration	2		
	Master of Science	38		
	Master of Science in Education	15		
	Master of Social Work	62		
	Specialist in Education	32		
	Doctor of Education	1		
	Doctor of Philosophy	22		
	Doctor of Public Health	5		
	<i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i>		605	
	<i>Total Graduate Degrees</i>		219	
	<i>Total Degrees</i>			824
Mississippi State University				
<i>Undergraduate</i>				
	Bachelor of Accountancy	117		
	Bachelor of Applied Science	56		
	Bachelor of Architecture	55		
	Bachelor of Arts	238		
	Bachelor of Business Administration	504		
	Bachelor of Fine Arts	28		
	Bachelor of Landscape Architecture	10		
	Bachelor of Music	2		
	Bachelor of Music Education	7		
	Bachelor of Science	2,036		
	Bachelor of Social Work	9		

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
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	Bachelor of University Studies	33		
	<i>Graduate</i>			
	Master of Agribusiness Management	4		
	Master of Agriculture	7		
	Master of Applied Data Science	3		
	Master of Applied Science	4		
	Master of Arts	16		
	Master of Arts in Teaching	27		
	Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary	10		
	Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education	8		
	Master of Business Administration	116		
	Master of Engineering	2		
	Master of Fine Arts	3		
	Master of Landscape Architecture	6		
	Master of Music Education	1		
	Master of Physician Assistant Studies	25		
	Master of Professional Accountancy	39		
	Master of Public Policy and Administration	9		
	Master of Science	268		
	Master of Science in Instructional Technology	6		
	Master of Science Information Systems	12		
	Master of Taxation	2		
	Specialist in Education	19		
	Doctor of Education	13		
	Doctor of Philosophy	74		
	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	116		
	Total Undergraduate Degrees		3,095	
	Total Graduate Degrees		790	
	Total Degrees			3,885
Mississippi University for Women				
	<i>Undergraduate</i>			
	Associate of Science in Nursing	53		
	Bachelor of Applied Science	12		
	Bachelor of Arts	8		
	Bachelor of Business Administration	40		
	Bachelor of Fine Arts	7		
	Bachelor of Professional Studies	9		
	Bachelor of Science	84		
	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	68		
	<i>Graduate</i>			

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
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 ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
 APRIL 16, 2026**

	Master of Arts in Teaching	1		
	Master of Business Administration	8		
	Master of Education	2		
	Master of Fine Arts	6		
	Master of Public Health	9		
	Master of Science	19		
	Doctor of Nursing Practice	4		
	<i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i>		281	
	<i>Total Graduate Degrees</i>		49	
	<i>Total Degrees</i>			330
Mississippi Valley State University				
	<i>Undergraduate</i>			
	Bachelor of Arts	33		
	Bachelor of Science	82		
	Bachelor of Social Work	6		
	<i>Graduate</i>			
	Master of Arts	3		
	Master of Arts in Teaching	1		
	Master of Business Administration	7		
	Master of Science	13		
	Master of Social Work	7		
	<i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i>		121	
	<i>Total Graduate Degrees</i>		31	
	<i>Total Degrees</i>			152
University of Mississippi				
	<i>Undergraduate</i>			
	Bachelor of Accountancy	270		
	Bachelor of Arts	772		
	Bachelor of Arts in Education	196		
	Bachelor of Arts in Journalism	67		
	Bachelor of Arts in Sport and Recreation Administration	23		
	Bachelor of Business Administration	774		
	Bachelor of Fine Arts	19		
	Bachelor of Multi-Disciplinary Studies	112		
	Bachelor of Music	20		
	Bachelor of Science	167		
	Bachelor of Science (IMC)	399		
	Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering	36		

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
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	Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering	28		
	Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering	43		
	Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering	2		
	Bachelor of Science in Computer Science	55		
	Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice	116		
	Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering	10		
	Bachelor of Science in Engineering	7		
	Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science	98		
	Bachelor of Science in Geological Engineering	9		
	Bachelor of Science in Geology	2		
	Bachelor of Science in Law Studies	49		
	Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering	65		
	Bachelor of Science in Public Health	27		
	Bachelor of Social Work	12		
	Bachelor of University Studies	14		
	<i>Graduate</i>			
	Master of Accountancy	24		
	Master of Accountancy and Data Analytics	50		
	Master of Arts	77		
	Master of Business Administration	20		
	Master of Criminal Justice	6		
	Master of Education	72		
	Master of Fine Arts	4		
	Master of Laws	7		
	Master of Music	8		
	Master of Public Health	27		
	Master of Science	166		
	Master of Science in Criminal Justice	8		
	Master of Science in Exercise Science	1		
	Master of Science in Social Work	14		
	Master of Taxation	2		
	Master of Taxation and Data Analytics	14		
	Specialist in Education	26		
	Doctor of Pharmacy	68		
	Doctor of Philosophy	60		
	Juris Doctor	136		
	<i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i>		3,392	
	<i>Total Graduate Degrees</i>		828	
	<i>Total Degrees</i>			4,220
University of Mississippi Medical Center				

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
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<i>Undergraduate</i>			
	Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene	21	
	Bachelor of Science in Health Informatics and Information Management	4	
	Bachelor of Science in Health Systems Administration	9	
	Bachelor of Science in Histotechnology	1	
	Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science	6	
	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	179	
	Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences	39	
<i>Graduate</i>			
	Master of Health Systems Administration	10	
	Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences	60	
	Master of Science in Biostatistics and Data Science	2	
	Master of Science in Clinical Investigation	3	
	Master of Science in Magnetic Resonance Imaging	4	
	Master of Science in Nuclear Medicine Technology	5	
	Master of Science in Nursing	100	
	Master of Science in Population Health Science	4	
	Doctor of Dental Medicine	41	
	Doctor of Health Administration	3	
	Doctor of Medicine	160	
	Doctor of Nursing Practice	18	
	Doctor of Occupational Therapy	35	
	Doctor of Philosophy	15	
	Doctor of Physical Therapy	49	
	<i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i>		259
	<i>Total Graduate Degrees</i>		509
	<i>Total Degrees</i>		768
University of Southern Mississippi			
<i>Undergraduate</i>			
	Bachelor of Applied Science	42	
	Bachelor of Arts	165	
	Bachelor of Fine Arts	31	
	Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies	18	
	Bachelor of Liberal Studies	54	
	Bachelor of Music	6	

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	Bachelor of Music Education	17		
	Bachelor of Science	799		
	Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	234		
	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	96		
	Bachelor of Social Work	33		
	Bachelor of University Studies	8		
	<i>Graduate</i>			
	Master of Arts	25		
	Master of Arts in Teaching	20		
	Master of Arts in Teaching of Languages	7		
	Master of Business Administration	34		
	Master of Education	21		
	Master of Fine Arts	4		
	Master of Library and Information Science	47		
	Master of Music	16		
	Master of Music Education	4		
	Master of Professional Accountancy	10		
	Master of Public Health	11		
	Master of Science	147		
	Master of Science in Athletic Training	10		
	Master of Social Work	54		
	Specialist in Education	2		
	Doctor of Audiology	5		
	Doctor of Education	8		
	Doctor of Musical Arts	12		
	Doctor of Philosophy	57		
	<i>Total Undergraduate Degrees</i>		1,503	
	<i>Total Graduate Degrees</i>		494	
	<i>Total Degrees</i>			1,997
<i>System Total Undergraduate Degrees</i>				
			9,889	
<i>System Total Graduate Degrees</i>				
			3,178	
<i>System Total Degrees</i>				
				13,067

*Note: System Total for spring 2026 represents an increase of 312 from spring 2025's total of 12,755.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends approval of these items.

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1. ASU – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS, INC.

Agenda Item Request: Alcorn State University request approval to enter into a purchase agreement with **Business Communications, Inc.**

Contractor’s Legal Name: Business Communications, Inc.

History of Contract: Alcorn State University is looking to sign a new contract and broaden its monitoring network. The Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services Express Products Option for Public Safety Video and Communication (PSVC) Systems EPL 4599 was utilized by Alcorn State University. For the purchase of body-worn cameras, dashboard cameras, license plate readers, two-way radio systems, surveillance units, software, equipment, and associated support services, the PSVC EPL offers a flexible procurement process. Alcorn State University used the 100% Cost Solicitation technique to choose Business Communications after requesting bids from every vendor in the categories of license plate readers, security cameras, and access control systems.

Specific Type of Contract: This is a new contract.

Purpose: The contract's objective is to facilitate the acquisition and installation of the suggested equipment to extend the existing surveillance network.

Scope of Work: The scope of work includes purchasing and installing the acquired hardware, cabling, and providing training.

Term of Contract: Start Date: 04/16/2026 End Date: 4/16/2027

Contract Amount: The contract amount is \$402,730.51

Funding Source for Contract: The contract will be funded using Designated funds.

Termination Options:

- **Termination Upon Mutual Agreement:** A supplement and/or purchase order may be terminated in whole or in part upon the mutual written agreement of Seller and the Purchaser.
- **Termination Due To Bankruptcy:** Should Seller become the subject of bankruptcy or receivership proceedings, whether voluntary or involuntary, or execute an assignment for the benefit of its creditors, the Purchaser may, upon the giving of thirty (30) days prior written notice, terminate a supplement and/or purchase order without the assessment of any penalties.
- **Termination Other Than For Cause:** A Purchaser may terminate a supplement and/or purchase order, in whole or in part and without the assessment of any

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penalties, for any reason by giving thirty (30) calendar days written notice specifying the effective date thereof to Seller. Any payment due Seller for services rendered by Seller prior to termination and received by Purchaser shall be paid.

- **Termination For Cause:** Either Purchaser or Seller may terminate a supplement and/or purchase order without the assessment of any penalties upon a material breach by the other party upon thirty (30) calendar days prior written notice unless the defaulting party cures such breach within such thirty (30) calendar-day period. The non-defaulting party may also pursue any remedy available to it in law or in equity.
- **Termination of EPL Agreement:** ITS may terminate this EPL Agreement for any reason without the assessment of any penalties after giving thirty (30) calendar days written notice specifying the effective date thereof to Seller, but any supplement and/or purchase order entered into prior to the termination date of this EPL Agreement shall survive the termination of the EPL Agreement. The terms of this EPL Agreement shall survive its termination/expiration with respect to any un-expired supplements and/or purchase orders.
- **Refund Of Unexpended Fees:** Upon termination of a supplement and/or purchase order, Seller shall refund any and all applicable unexpended pro-rated fees previously paid by the Purchaser.
- Any termination of any supplement and/or purchase order under this EPL Agreement shall not be construed as termination of this EPL Agreement.
- The termination provisions provided herein are in addition to any other articles addressing termination in this EPL Agreement (e.g., Article 15, Availability of Funds, etc.)

Contractor Selection Process: The University utilized The Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services Express Products Option for Public Safety Video and Communication (PSVC) Systems EPL 4599.

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. IHL – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND AN AGREEMENT WITH GC LOGISTICS, LLC

Agenda Item Request: The Board Office requests approval to amend the existing agreement with **GC Logistics LLC** for an additional year with options to renew up to five years total.

Contractor’s Legal Name: GC Logistics, LLC

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History of Contract: The contract was entered into on April 14, 2025, for one year with the option to renew if satisfied with the service. The Board Office has been satisfied with the service provided and would like to renew the agreement for an additional year and request Board approval for options to renew annually up to five years total.

Specific Type of Contract: Service Contract.

Purpose: The purpose of the contract is to provide lawn services.

Scope of Work: The scope of the contract includes lawn care professions to perform comprehensive landscaping and lawn maintenance of the Education and Research Center campus detailed in the RFP 2025.0113.

Term of Contract: The initial term of the agreement was May 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026, with option to renew, providing both parties agree, not to exceed five years. This amendment renews the term through April 30, 2027. Board staff request approval to renew this agreement for an additional year with options to renew annually, pending satisfactory service, through April 30, 2030.

Termination Options: Either party may terminate with ten (10) days prior written notice.

Contract Amount: This amendment increases the monthly amount to \$5,530.51 of which MCCB will reimburse \$300.00 monthly. Board staff request approval of up to \$350,000 for the full five years, pending additional renewals.

Funding Source of Contract: General Funds

Contractor Selection Process: The IHL Executive Office issued a Request for Proposal (RFP 2025.0113) on February 13, 2025. Six proposals were received. Of the proposals received, GC Logistics, LLC provided the highest evaluated score overall and lowest cost.

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 TO ENTER A TRANSPORTATION, PARKING AND VALET SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH GROOME TRANSPORTATION OF TEXAS, LLC**

Agenda Item Request: The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to enter a Transportation, Parking and Valet Services agreement with **Groome Transportation of Texas, LLC** (Groome) for the provision of daily Transportation, Valet

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and Parking Services. Under this agreement, Groome will provide transportation services for employees and students parking at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium; shuttle service to and from Colony Park North and South and the Jackson Medical Mall; shuttle cart service for patients and guests needing transportation to the hospitals; and charter service for UMMC events, Medical Center functions, and special trips. In addition, Groome will manage all public parking operations within the parking garages on UMMC's main campus and provide all required valet services on the main campus.

Contractor's Legal Name: Groome Transportation of Texas, LLC

History of Contract: On April 15, 2021, the Board approved a Transportation Services Agreement with Groome for daily shuttle service and charter services. The agreement expires on April 30, 2026. UMMC is entering this contract as a result of RFP 8078 for Transportation, Parking and Valet Services to consolidate the three services into one agreement.

Specific Type of Contract: This is a new transportation, parking and valet services agreement.

Purpose: The purpose of this contract is to provide transportation, parking and valet services for employees, patients, and visitors.

Scope of Work: Under the Agreement, Groome will manage all Transportation, Parking, and Valet services for UMMC Main Campus. Groome will provide, at its own expense, all labor, tools, materials, supplies, equipment and supervision to perform all tasks related to the services provided.

Term of Contract: The term of the contract is five (5) years beginning May 1, 2026, through April 30, 2031.

Termination Options: The agreement may be terminated as follows:

- by UMMC at any time upon a 120-day written notice;
- in the event of default by Groome and failure to cure the default;
- in the event of a breach of Groome's obligations under the contract;
- in the event of any reduction in available funds to UMMC, the contract may be terminated without penalty to UMMC;
- failure by Groome to comply with the federal E-Verify Program; and
- upon 30 days' written notice in the event a change in law results in adverse consequences and the parties cannot agree upon renegotiated terms.

Contract Amount: The total estimated cost of the agreement over the five (5) year term is \$16,625,000. Beginning in year two (2), UMMC has included a twenty percent (20%) annual increases for volume and price changes.

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

Contractor Selection Process: In November of 2025, UMMC conducted Request for Proposal (RFP) 8078 for Parking, Valet, and Transportation services and three (3) bidders submitted proposals. After reviewing the proposals, a UMMC selection committee found that two (2) bidders met the scope of the RFP: Groom and Laz Parking. Groome received the highest total score based on cost, value, experience, references, and response to specifications.

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 ENTER INTO A PRODUCT SCHEDULE WITH ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS CORPORATION

Agenda Item Request: The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to enter into a Product Schedule (#1025448) with the **Roche Diagnostics Corporation** (Roche) to provide for the lease of a new Cobas 5800 laboratory analyzer used in infectious disease testing, the continued lease of the Cobas 6800 analyzer, the purchasing of reagents and supplies needed for diagnostic testing, service for leased and owned instruments, and training. The redundancy in analyzers from the new lease of the Cobas 6800 will ensure that there is no lapse in patient care due to analyzer downtime, and will open up additional testing not currently offered. 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

History of Contract: On May 21, 2020, the Board approved a new Enterprise Agreement with Roche under which UMMC may negotiate new Statements of Work or Product and/or Product Schedules. The Enterprise Agreement replaced the previous Master Agreement. The Product Schedule incorporates the 2020 Enterprise Agreement.

On November 19, 2020, the Board approved Product Schedule 1002559 (Schedule) with Roche for the lease of one (1) Roche Cobas 6800 laboratory instrument, the purchase of reagents and supplies needed for diagnostic testing on the leased equipment and owned equipment, service for both instruments, and training. On February 17, 2022, the Board approved an amendment to the Schedule with Roche to add new reagent test kits to the Schedule and a purchase commitment for the new reagent test kits. The Product Schedule will expire five (5) years after date of installation/validation of the last piece of equipment, which is expected November 30, 2026.

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Specific Type of Contract: This is a new Product Schedule (#1025448).

Purpose: This Product Schedule (#1025448) will allow for the lease of a new Cobas 5800 laboratory analyzer used in infectious disease testing, the continued lease of the Cobas 6800 analyzer, the purchasing of reagents and supplies needed for diagnostic testing, service for leased and owned instruments, and training. The redundancy in analyzers from the new lease of the Cobas 6800 will ensure that there is no lapse in patient care due to analyzer downtime, and will open up additional testing not currently offered. This Cobas 6800 will be located in the serology lab at the Jackson Main Campus. This agreement will replace the current product schedule in which we are leasing the Cobas 6800.

Scope of Work: Under this agreement, Roche will provide a leased Cobas 5800, the continued lease of the Cobas 6800, the purchase of necessary reagents and supplies, service of leased and owned equipment, and training.

Term of Contract: The product schedule is for a term of five (5) years, which is expected to begin on or around May 1, 2026 through on or around April 30, 2031.

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.

Product Schedule 1025448 may be terminated as follows:

- by UMMC upon ninety (90) days written notice to Roche, after the first twenty-four (24) months of the agreement; and

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- by UMMC for the remaining term of the agreement with respect to the Equipment that was upgraded if UMMC upgrades a piece of equipment included in the agreement to a new piece of Roche Equipment

Contract Amount: The total estimated cost of the agreement over the five (5) year term is \$7,900,000. The total includes a ten percent (10%) annual increase for cpi increases and potential volume growth.

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

Contractor Selection Process: Roche 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.

5. MSU – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH SOFTWARE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL

Agenda Item Request: Pursuant to Section 701.01(A) of the IHL Board Policies and Bylaws, Mississippi State University (MSU) requests approval to enter into an agreement with **Software House International** to purchase computing equipment.

In the event that MDITS does not approve MSU's request to increase the CP-1, MSU requests approval to execute a purchase order with SHI for the purchase of 2 GPU Racks and 1 CPU Rack.

In the event that MDITS does approve MSU's request to increase the CP-1, MSU requests approval to execute a purchase order with SHI for the purchase of 2 GPU Racks and 2 CPU Racks.

Contractor's Legal Name: Software House International.

History of Contract: MSU has entered into two separate Prime Agreements with federal agencies. The first is an Agreement with NOAA to provide services to deliver operational supercomputing capabilities for collaborative research applications. The second is an Agreement with USDA to provide operational support of an HPC resource located at an MSU facility.

The equipment required for both contains GPUs and CPUs that are increasingly scarce due to the proliferation of AI and data centers nationwide causing rapid and extreme price increases. Prices for this equipment are rising as much as 10% per week and bids from

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suppliers are only being honored for a maximum of 14 days. The manufacturer of these components has indicated that prices will increase 30% on May 1, 2026.

MSU currently has an approved CP-1 to purchase the described equipment in the amount of \$8 Million. At its meeting on April 16, 2026, MDITS will consider MSU's request to increase the CP-1 to cover the total cost of 2 GPU and 2 CPU Racks.

Specific Type of Contract: This equipment will be purchased using a vendor provided quote with MSU's Standard Addendum attached.

Purpose: The purpose of this purchase is to satisfy the requirements of the Prime Agreements with NOAA and USDA.

Scope of Work: Purchase of computing equipment.

Term of Contract: The quotes for purchase are valid until April 17, 2026.

Termination Options: This agreement can be cancelled by MSU with thirty (30) days' notice to the Contractor at the end of the fiscal period in the event funds are not appropriated by the funding authority or in the event of a breach by SHI.

Contract Amount: MSU currently has an approved CP-1 from MDITS to allow MSU to purchase up to \$8,000,000 in computing equipment. At its meeting on April 16, 2026, MDITS will consider MSU's request to increase the CP-1 to cover the total cost of purchasing 2 GPU and 2 CPU Racks.

To address the uncertainty created by needing an increased CP-1 exemption, MSU currently has 2 quotes from SHI.

In the event that MDITS does not approve MSU's request to increase the CP-1, MSU requests approval to execute the first purchase order for 2 GPU Racks and 1 CPU Rack. The total cost of this purchase is \$6,286,796.39 in addition to any price increase that is incurred prior to shipping. As reflected in the quote, the price is subject to change prior to shipment. The price will increase if the manufacturer list prices increase, however, the supplier has agreed that the margin charged by the supplier will not increase.

In the event that MDITS does approve MSU's request to increase the CP-1, MSU requests approval to execute the second purchase order for 2 GPU Racks and 2 CPU Racks. The total cost of this purchase is \$9,573,279.84 in addition to any price increase that is incurred prior to shipping. As reflected in the quote, the price is subject to change prior to shipment. The price will increase if the manufacturer list prices increase, however, the supplier has agreed that the margin charged by the supplier will not increase.

Funding Source for Contract: These purchases will be paid for using federal funds from NOAA and USDA. MSU has reviewed the applicable federal grants and has confirmed that the use of federal funds for this purchase is consistent with the terms of the grant.

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Contractor Selection Process: MSU issued Sourcing Event #MSU2026054 and advertised in the Starkville Daily News and the Clarion Ledger where bids were due Friday, March 27th at 2:00 pm. Software House International was the lowest and best bidder.

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. MSU – IHL 205-337 – ULYSSES S. GRANT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY–
APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGER ADVISOR**

Project Request: Mississippi State University requests approval of Innovative Construction Management, LLC (ICM) as the Construction Manager Adviser (CMA) for the project. MSU used an RFP method for selection of the CMA.

Design Professional: MP Design Group + Mathes Brierre Architects (Joint Venture)

General Contractor: TBD

Purpose: MSU requests approval of ICM as the Construction Manager Adviser (CMA) for the project since Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) was not viable due to federal funding restrictions. MSU prefers the CMA delivery method in lieu of traditional design-bid-build for this project given the complexity of constructing a Presidential Library with a robust museum exhibit scope of work. Also, MSU anticipates multiple phases for the project which may include a site preparation phase, a building phase and an exhibit phase so utilizing a CMA will provide continuity in project management, supervision and coordination.

Project Scope: The project will involve the design and construction of a facility to house the Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library. The existing collection and museum are housed on the fourth floor of MSU’s Mitchell Memorial Library. The new library will not only be home to the existing Grant collection but will incorporate a museum with exhibit space, conference and educational space, and office facilities. The project is federally funded and will be administered in accordance with National Archives and Records Administration guidelines.

Project Initiation Date: April 20, 2023

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Project Budget:

		<i>Estimated</i>
Construction Cost:	\$	20,000,000.00
Architectural and Engineering Fees:		2,000,000.00
Misc. Project Costs:		3,000,000.00
Furniture & Equipment Costs:		0.00
Contingency:		1,000,000.00
Total Project Budget	\$	26,000,000.00

Funding Source(s): Federal Funding Appropriation (\$26,000,000)

Staff Recommendation: Board staff recommends approval of this item.

APPROVAL OF OTHER REAL ESTATE REQUESTS

**2. MUW – DEMOLISH AND DELETE FROM INVENTORY – BUILDING 51
 RESIDENCE HOUSE -1423 5TH AVE. – COLUMBUS, MS**

Agenda Request: Mississippi University for Women requests approval to demolish and delete from inventory Building #51 Residence House 1423 5th Avenue, Columbus, MS.

Justification: The property was built in the 1950’s and donated to MUW in 1997. The 5th Avenue House was rented by a retired MUW employee until 2025. The property has now been vacant for approximately one year. MUW has determined the continued repairs, and maintenance would not be cost effective for the university.

The letter of approval has been received from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), stating Building #51 Residence House – 1423 5th Avenue is not eligible for designation as a Mississippi Landmark and approval to demolition the building has been granted. All legal documentation will be kept on file in the Office of Real Estate and Facilities. Mississippi University for Women 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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3. UM – DEMOLISH AND DELETE FROM INVENTORY – C.M. “TAD” SMITH COLISEUM

Agenda Request: The University of Mississippi requests to remove the C. M. “Tad” Smith Coliseum from inventory.

Justification: Demolition of the Tad Smith Coliseum is needed to construct a new parking lot in its location. The University of Mississippi received a Mississippi Landmark permit issued by the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History on March 17, 2026, for the demolition of C.M. “Tad” Smith Coliseum.

The University of 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.

4. UM –SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON NEW HOUSE – APPROVAL OF EXTERIOR DESIGN

Agenda Request: The University of Mississippi requests approval of the exterior design of the new Sigma Alpha Epsilon house.

Design Professional: PryorMorrow PC

General Contractor: Innovative Construction Management, LLC

Purpose: The University of Mississippi is seeking approval of the exterior rendering for the renovation of the new Sigma Alpha Epsilon house.

Project Scope: Due to their growing membership and confining site, SAE’s existing house will be demolished to make way for a new, 3-story house. The new house will include a full-service kitchen and dining space/chapter room, a library and multiple dedicated study spaces, house mother’s suite, ±70 beds, and an outdoor living space with a half basketball court.

Funding Source(s): SAE Funds

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Project Budget: \$8,800,000

The University of Mississippi 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.

Rendering 1: New Sigma Alpha Epsilon House – Front Facing South



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Rendering 2: New Sigma Alpha Epsilon House – Back Facing Northeast



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1. **ASU – APPROVAL TO HIRE BLAIR, BONDURANT & PATTERSON AS OUTSIDE COUNSEL**

Alcorn State University request approval to enter into a contract with the law firm of Blair, Bondurant & Patterson as outside counsel to perform services necessary in assisting the university with various issues in the area of oil, gas, and other mineral rights. The term of the contract will be one year beginning April 17, 2026. The hourly rate for attorneys is \$350 and the maximum amount payable under the term of the agreement is \$30,000. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$2 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$2 million. This request has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board Staff recommends approval of this item.

2. **MSU – APPROVAL TO HIRE CONLEY ROSE, P.C. AS OUTSIDE COUNSEL**

Mississippi State University requests approval to enter into a contract with the law firm of Conley Rose, P.C. as outside counsel to perform services necessary in assisting the university with intellectual property and patent application matters. The term of the contract will be two years beginning May 1, 2026. The hourly rates will be \$325 for attorneys and \$175 for paralegal services. To help manage per-project costs, the University may also pay the firm on a flat-rate basis to prepare and file patent applications. Flat-rate filings for provisional patent applications will not exceed \$5,000 per filing, and non-provisional applications will not exceed \$15,000 per filing. These rates will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, and the most cost-efficient “rate-basis” for the University will be determined and agreed upon. The maximum amount payable under the two-year term of the agreement is \$200,000. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$10 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$10 million. This request has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board Staff recommends approval of this item.

3. **MSU – APPROVAL TO HIRE MENDELSON DUNLEAVY, P.A. AS OUTSIDE COUNSEL**

Mississippi State University requests approval to enter into a contract with the law firm of Mendelsohn Dunleavy, P.A. as outside counsel to perform services necessary in assisting the university with intellectual property and patent application matters. The term of the contract will be two years beginning May 1, 2026. The hourly rates will be \$415 for attorneys Kevin Dunleavy, Steve Mendelsohn and Garth Dahlen, \$365 for attorneys Tu Phan-Kerr and Curtis Altman, \$260 for US Patent Agent Kristina Sanchez, and \$115 for paralegal services. To help manage per-project costs, the University may also pay the

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firm on a flat-rate basis to prepare and file patent applications. Flat-rate filings for provisional patent applications will not exceed \$5,000 per filing, and non-provisional applications will not exceed \$15,000 per filing. These rates will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis, and the most cost-efficient “rate-basis” for the University will be determined and agreed upon. The maximum amount payable under the two-year term of the agreement is \$200,000. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$1 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$3 million. This request has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board Staff recommends approval of this item.

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APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL ACTION REQUEST

1. Employment

Mississippi State University

Sheree Sollberger Bouchillon; *rehired retiree*; *Business Coordinator* of Dean of Engineering; salary \$31,200.00 per annum, pro rata; Restricted Funds; 12-month contract; effective February 09, 2026

2. Sabbatical

University of Southern Mississippi

- Matthew Casey; Associate Professor of History; salary of \$101,662 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 17, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development.
- Sara Jordan; Professor of Psychology; salary of \$110,187 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 17, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development.
- Xiaodong Zhang; Professor of Marine Science; salary of \$148,518 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 17, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development.
- Karen Kozlowski; Associate Professor of Psychology; salary of \$66,220 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 4, 2027 to May 14, 2027; professional development.
- Chao Meng; Associate Professor of Marketing; salary of \$120,168 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 4, 2027 to May 14, 2027; professional development.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
CONSENT AGENDA
ADMINISTRATION/POLICY
APRIL 16, 2026**

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

The university requests approval to bestow one honorary degree at its May 2026 Commencement ceremonies. Supporting documents are on file at the Board Office.

Staff Recommendation: Board staff recommends approval of this item.

2. **MUW – APPROVAL TO AWARD ONE HONORARY DEGREE**

The university requests approval to bestow one honorary degree at its May 2026 Commencement ceremonies. Supporting documents are on file at the Board Office.

Staff Recommendation: Board staff recommends approval of this item.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
REGULAR AGENDA
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
APRIL 16, 2026**

1. **USM – REQUEST TO ADD A NEW INSTITUTE**

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

Center title: **The Institute of Strategic Leadership and Innovation**

Center location: Gulf Park campus

Scope: Limited Scope and Outreach

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

Effective date: March 2026

Total number of current faculty/ Total number of new faculty: 2/0

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

Anticipated cost for the next 5 years: \$1,885,300

Funding source: Program revenue

Purpose: The Institute of Strategic Leadership & Innovation (ISLI) represents a commitment by USM to strengthen leadership capacity, accelerate innovation, and generate rigorous strategic intelligence that will serve the state of Mississippi and the broader Gulf South region. ISLI will be developed in phased stages, beginning with leadership development and applied research initiatives that leverage existing faculty capacity, with additional activities introduced as financial sustainability is demonstrated. Ultimately, the Gulf South region has limited access to comprehensive, university-based platforms integrating leadership development with strategic intelligence. ISLI will leverage interdisciplinary strengths across USM colleges and campuses to create integrated leadership development pathways, applied research initiatives, and analytics-driven insight that support public, private, and nonprofit organizations facing technological disruption, workforce transitions, and complex policy and market environments. By uniting executive and professional education, strategic intelligence products, and high-impact convenings under a single institutional platform, the Institute will advance core university strategic priorities, elevate USM’s visibility as a trusted source of evidence-based decision-making, and position the institution as a regional leader in cultivating resilient leaders, high-performing organizations, and innovative communities.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends approval of this item.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
REGULAR AGENDA
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
APRIL 16, 2026**

2. **USM – REQUEST TO ADD A NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM**

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, the University of Southern Mississippi requests approval to establish a new academic degree program.

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) in Entrepreneurship

CIP code: 52.0701

Total credit hours: 120

Effective date: August 2026

Incremental, five-year cost of implementation: \$0

Potential new, five-year revenue: program currently exists as an emphasis area – no additional revenue beyond potential enrollment growth

Unit where academic program will be housed: College of Business and Economic Development, School of Management

Number of students expected to enroll in first five years: 280

Number of students expected to graduate in first five years: 175

Program description: This degree program currently exists as an emphasis of the BSBA in Business Administration, and USM seeks to make this a stand-alone degree program. The Entrepreneurship BSBA is designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop, market, and manage their own business. At the core of this program is the process of entrepreneurial discovery, evaluation and exploitation of business opportunities. Students are exposed to a multidisciplinary set of courses, which cut across accounting, finance, marketing and management disciplines.

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

Supply and demand; Average wages: The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that overall employment in management occupations is predicted to grow faster than the average for all other occupations from 2024 to 2034. The median wage for this group is \$122,090, which is higher than the median for all other occupations of \$49,500. MSPolicy.org reports that MS is one of the fastest-growing states, largely due to deregulation, tax cuts, tax reform, increased educational funding, and improvements in the business climate. Regionally, similar GDP increases are seen in Arkansas and Alabama.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends approval of this item.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
REGULAR AGENDA
FINANCE & BUDGET
APRIL 16, 2026**

1. SYSTEM–PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF FY 2027 APPROPRIATIONS AND APPROPRIATION ALLOCATION

There will be an overview of the FY 2027 appropriations from the Legislature with a presentation of the final allocation of Education & General Support appropriations to the eight universities along with Legislative earmarks, subsidiary programs, agricultural units, and the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Allocation of Education and General Support Budgets are based on the following Legislative directives to provide salary increases for faculty, employer PERS contributions, and health insurance premium increases:

1. SB 3053, 2026 Regular Session, Section 49, “Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this act, Twelve Million Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-eight Dollars (\$12,013,848.00), or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be derived out of any money in the State Treasury to the credit of the Education Enhancement Fund and deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31, Mississippi Code of 1972. These funds are provided for the equivalent of a Two Thousand Dollar (\$2,000.00) salary increase for all professors and adjunct professors at the eight (8) universities, at the discretion of the Institutional Executive Officer.”
2. SB 3231, 2024 Regular Session, Section 1(c)(1), “From and after the effective date of this act, the increase in the employer's contribution rate scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2024, is rescinded and shall not take effect; however, on July 1 of each year from 2024 through 2028, the employer's contribution rate shall be increased by one-half percent (1/2%).”
3. Item 4, State and School Health Insurance Management Board Meeting, August 27, 2025, “Benefit Changes for 2026,” a motion was approved to increase insurance rates by 6.5% for all plans effective January 1, 2026.

Allocation will be provided under separate cover.

Staff Recommendation: Board Policy 701.04 says “The Commissioner, after consultation with the Institutional Executive Officers, shall use the Adequate Funding Model to prepare and submit for approval by the Board an annual request for allocation of funds appropriated by the Legislature for the use of the several institutions and separately budgeted units.” Board staff recommends FINAL approval of the FY 2027 allocation.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
REGULAR AGENDA
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2. SYSTEM – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF FY 2027 TUITION, ROOM AND BOARD RATES AND WAIVER OF THE 30-DAY REVIEW PERIOD

Agenda Item Request: Approval is requested to waive the required 30-day review period and to give final approval for the tuition, room and board rates effective FY 2027.

Additional information will be submitted to the Board under separate cover.

Staff Recommendation: Based on Board Policy 702.04C – *Consideration of Requests: Requests to establish tuition, and room and board charges shall not be considered until at least thirty days after they have been submitted to provide an opportunity for review by the Board and the Commissioner. The Board reserves the right to waive the thirty-day review requirement during periods of extreme time constraint.*

Staff recommends that the Board waive the thirty-day review requirement of the proposed FY2027 tuition, room and board rates and adopt for FINAL approval.

3. JSU – REQUESTS APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FEE RATES EFFECTIVE FY 2027

Agenda Item Request: Jackson State University (JSU) requests permission to increase its Capital Improvement fee to provide a stable base of support for capital projects.

Specifically, JSU requests permission to increase its Capital Improvement Fee per semester applicable to all students (resident, non-resident, on-line and on any campus) from \$52.50 to \$60.00. The fee will be assessed at an hourly rate of \$5.00 for undergraduate students and at an hourly rate of \$6.67 for graduate students and will be capped at \$60.00 per term. The fee will be assessed for all academic terms starting after August 1, 2026.

Planned uses of the total capital improvement revenue are as follows:

Minor renovation of educational facilities	\$175,000
New and more efficient Air Handler Unites in various facilities	\$195,000
Sidewalk and paving repairs	\$150,000
Minor renovation of housing facilities	\$170,000
Campus Signage	\$ 90,000
Total Planned Capital Improvement Fee Usage	\$780,000

Estimated Revenue: Based on current enrollment, JSU projects this fee to generate approximately \$780, 000 of revenue annually, all of which will be recorded in the plant fund and used strictly to address facility repair needs on campus.

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Staff recommends that the Board waive the thirty-day review requirement of the proposed FY2027 tuition, room and board rates and adopt for FINAL approval.

4. MUW – REQUEST TO INSTITUTE A NEW STUDENT TECHNOLOGY FEE

Agenda Item Request: Mississippi University for Women (MUW) requests approval of \$12.50 per semester hour Student Technology Fee. The Technology Fee is applicable to all students (resident, non-resident, on-line, and on any campus) to provide a stable base of support for technology that directly affects our student body academic learning. This fee will be assessed for all academic terms with classes starting after August 1, 2026.

A sampling of planned annual uses of these funds, but not limited to, are as follows:

- Internet2 and MIssiON - \$ 61,500
- Upgrade/Maintenance of technology in classrooms - \$50,000
- Student Learning Management System - \$100,000
- Network maintenance, upgrades and cybersecurity - \$150,000
- Software Resources - \$55,000
- Admission CRM - \$50,000
- Computer Lab Replacement and Upgrades - \$50,000
- Upgrade Student Single Sign On portal \$55,000

Estimated Revenue: The fee would be assessed per credit hour up to full-time status each semester. Based on current enrollment, the proposed fee is projected to generate \$550,000 annually, all of which will be recorded in a Technology Fee Account.

Staff recommends that the Board waive the thirty-day review requirement of the proposed FY2027 tuition, room and board rates and adopt for FINAL approval.

5. SYSTEM–SALARY GUIDELINES FOR FY 2027

Board Policy requires the Commissioner and the Institutional Executive Officers to determine annual salary guidelines in preparation for the upcoming budget. Salary increases for FY 2027 should be based on one or more of the following:

1. Two Thousand (\$2,0000) salary increase for all professors and adjunct professors,
2. meritorious performance,
3. market adjustments, and
4. faculty/staff promotions.

Salary increase decisions may be made at the discretion of the Commissioner (for the Executive Office) or the Institutional Executive Officer (for the campuses). These salary guidelines will apply to all university and Board office employees regardless of funding source or types of increases awarded.

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Staff Recommendation: Based on Board Policy 401.0103 Salaries and Compensation, the Commissioner, after consultation with the Institutional Executive Officers, shall annually develop guidelines for the award of salary increases which shall be approved by the Board. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

6. UMMC – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND THE HOUSEKEEPING MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH HHS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, LLC

Agenda Item Request: The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests approval to amend its Housekeeping Management and Services Agreement with **HHS Environmental Services, LLC** (HHS). The amendment is to extend the term by one (1) year and make revisions to Exhibits A and D. The agreement is for the provision and management of environmental (housekeeping) services for UMMC facilities in Jackson, Madison County, Grenada, and Holmes County, including clinical and non-clinical areas. UMMC requests permission to amend the agreement as needed to make changes that may affect contract pricing without seeking prior board approval as long as it does not increase the approved expenditure level. Such changes include, but are not limited to, adding or removing areas to be cleaned by HHS and adjusting the monthly contract price due to additional or unforeseen costs incurred by HHS, expansion of services requested by UMMC, or a three percent (3%) change in UMMC’s annual average facility statistics.

Contractor’s Legal Name: **HHS Environmental Services, LLC**

History of Contract: On March 18, 2021, the Board approved the Housekeeping Management and Services Agreement with HHS and gave UMMC permission to amend the agreement as needed as long as the overall cost did not change. On December 1, 2024, UMMC and HHS entered into Amendment 1 that updated the monthly cost for the Jackson Clinical areas and replaced Exhibit A to the agreement. On May 1, 2025, UMMC and HHS entered into Amendment 2 that added UMMC Madison, a starting minimum wage for all HHS staff, staff for Jackson bed moves, and a monthly labor reconciliation. Amendment 2 also revised the total monthly cost and replaced Exhibit A to the agreement. On October 17, 2025, UMMC and HHS entered into Amendment 3 to add the Alyce G. Clarke Center for Medically Fragile Children and two (2) medical office building locations in Canton, MS to the agreement that also revised the monthly cost and replaced Exhibit A. On February 1, 2026, UMMC and HHS entered into Amendment 4 to add Colony Park N, revise the monthly cost, and replace Exhibit A. On March 1, 2026, UMMC and HHS entered into Amendment 5 to add the Grenada Medical Complex, revise the monthly cost, and replace Exhibit A. The agreement will expire on March 31, 2026, if not amended, and UMMC is extending it at this time to allow the time needed to complete an RFP for a new housekeeping management and services agreement.

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Specific Type of Contract: This is Amendment 6 to the Housekeeping Management and Services Agreement.

Purpose: The purpose of Amendment 6 is to extend the term by one (1) year and make revisions to Exhibits A and D. The purpose of the agreement is for HHS to manage environmental services (housekeeping) for UMMC's Adult and Children's Hospitals, various ambulatory clinics, as well as educational, research, and service areas in Jackson, Madison County, Grenada, and Holmes County. HHS will provide a management team with hospital environmental services operations, all hospital housekeeping personnel, equipment including ultraviolet (UV) technology, and janitorial supplies including floor care chemicals and microfiber mops and towels.

Scope of Work: Under the amended agreement, HHS will:

- manage hospital environmental services and provide housekeeping employees for UMMC locations including Adult and Children's Hospitals, various ambulatory clinics, as well as educational, research, and service areas in Jackson, Madison County, Grenada, and Holmes County;
- provide management positions and housekeeping labor force employed by HHS;
- train, manage and direct all employees in the performance of their duties;
- purchase and provide some equipment necessary to perform services at UMMC;
- supply all housekeeping chemicals and certain cleaning supplies needed to perform the services; and maintain applicable insurance during the term of the agreement.

UMMC will:

- provide access to its facilities and equipment where services are to be performed;
- provide some equipment necessary to perform services at UMMC;
- furnish use of an office and storage space; and
- provide all utilities.

Term of Contract: This agreement is for an amended term of six (6) years, from May 1, 2021, through April 30, 2027. The original term was five (5) years, ending on April 30, 2026. Amendment 6 adds one (1) year to the Agreement.

Termination Options: Termination options include:

- by agreement of the parties, not later than 140 days from the date HHS requests a price adjustment, if are unable to agree on a price adjustment;
- by HHS, upon fifteen (15) days written notice if complains regarding undisputed, unpaid fees are not addressed and remedied within fifteen (15) days of written notice to UMMC;
- by either party, for a material breach, if the breach is not addressed and remedied within thirty (30) days of written notice of the breach, upon an additional thirty (30) day notice period;
- by either party, upon 180 days written notice to HHS, after the first (1st) twelve (12) months of the term of the agreement;

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- by UMMC upon thirty (30) days' prior notice for insufficient funds;
- by the non-delayed party, upon ten days written notice, if substantial nonperformance continues for more than sixty (60) days due to a force majeure event; and
- immediately if the agreement is assigned to another party without consent of the non-assigning party.

Contract Amount: The total estimated cost of the amended agreement over the six (6) year term is \$113,575,000. The increased amount is \$ 15,000,000. The original estimated cost for the five (5) year term was \$ 98,575,000.

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

Contractor Selection Process: UMMC is currently contracted with HHS. HHS was selected by a comparison of proposals from four (4) vendors contracted with Vizient, UMMC's primary group purchasing organization. HHS was selected for its overall ability to meet the requested scope of work, including, but not limited to, HHS's implementation plan, technological capabilities, training processes, onsite recruiter, patient experience program, and onsite infection prevention personnel.

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. **ASU- REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF BOND RESOLUTION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING ALL OR A PORTION OF THE CORPORATON'S OUTSTANDING SERIES 2016 BONDS**

Agenda Item Request: Alcorn State University requests approval of a Bond Resolution and supporting documents to approve the resolution for the purpose of refunding all or a portion of the Corporation's outstanding Series 2016 Bonds, The total NVP savings are estimated to be approximately 3% of the refunded bonds.

- Refunding (Maximum Par Amount): \$33,985,000
 - Series 2016 Bond proceeds were used to advance refund the Series 2009A Bonds (Student Housing Bonds).

ASU also requests approval of the following supporting documents:

- IHL Amending Resolution
- Ground Lease
- Lease Agreement
- Preliminary Official Statement
- Continuing Disclosure Agreement

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Following are the professionals:

- Financial Advisor – Hilltop Securities
- Bond Counsel – Butler Snow
- Senior Managing Underwriter – Raymond James & Associates, Inc.

Specific Type of Contract: Long-term, fixed rate bonds.

Scope of Work: The proposed refunding bond issue includes funds for refunding all or a portion of the Corporation's Series 2016 Bonds.

Term of Contract: The refunding bonds will mature on September 1, 2039.

Termination Options: The bond issue documents contain redemption provisions which can be used in case of market changes.

Contract Amount: ASU, through the ASU Educational Building Corporation, expects to issue up to a maximum of \$33,985,000 par value of fixed-rate bonds. Proceeds from the bond issue will support the refunding transaction, costs of issuance, and the underwriter's discount.

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. **DSU - REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A BOND RESOLUTION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING ALL OR A PORTION OF THE CORPORATION'S OUTSTANDING SERIES 2016 BONDS**

Agenda Item Request: Delta State University requests approval of a Bond Resolution and supporting documents to approve the resolution for the purpose of current refunding all or a portion of the Corporation's outstanding Series 2016 Bonds. The total NPV savings are estimated to be approximately 3% of the refunded bonds.

- Refunding (Maximum Par Amount): \$9,015,000
 - Series 2016 Bond proceeds were used to advance refund the Series 2003 and to finance the purchase of a student housing facility that was leased by DSU from Stateman Housing LLC.

DSU also requests approval of the following supporting documents:

- IHL Amending Resolution
- Ground Lease
- Lease Agreement
- Preliminary Official Statement

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Following are the professionals:

- Financial Advisor – Hilltop Securities
- Bond Counsel – Butler Snow
- Senior Managing Underwriter – Raymond James & Associates, Inc. as senior underwriter and such other underwriters as are named in the Bond Purchase Agreement (collectively, the “Underwriter”).

Specific Type of Contract: Long-term, fixed rate bonds.

Scope of Work: The proposed refunding bond issue includes funds for refunding all or a portion of the Corporation’s Series 2016 Bonds.

Term of Contract: The proposed refunding bonds will mature on December 1, 2038.

Termination Options: The bond issue documents contain redemption provisions which can be used in case of market changes.

Contract Amount: DSU, through the DSU Educational Building Corporation, expects to issue up to a maximum of \$9,015,000 par value of fixed-rate bonds. Proceeds from the bond issue will support the refunding transaction, costs of issuance, and the underwriter's discount.

Based on the Financial Advisor's report dated April 2, 2026, the proposed refunding debt amortization will have an estimated net present value savings of approximately \$268,000.

Funding Source for Contract: Operating revenues from the student housing facilities and various campus facilities.

Contractor Selection Process: Underwriter, financial advisor, and bond counsel were selected based on experience and the firm’s unsolicited proposals.

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. **JSU- REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A BOND RESOLUTION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING ALL OR A PORTION OF THE CORPORATION’S OUTSTANDING SERIES 2017A BONDS**

Agenda Item Request: Jackson State University requests approval of a Bond Resolution and supporting documents to approve the resolution for the purpose of refunding all or a portion of the Corporation’s outstanding Series 2017A Bonds. The total NPV savings are estimated to be approximately 3% of the refunded bonds.

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- Refunding (Maximum Par Amount): \$22,190,000
 - Taxable Series 2017A6 Bond proceeds were used to advance refund the Series 2010A-1 bonds. The Series 2010A-1 bonds were issued to advance refund the Series 2002 Bond (Student Recreation Center Project) and the Series 2004-A bond (Campus Facilities Project).

JSU also requests approval of the following supporting documents:

- IHL Amending Resolution
- Ground Lease
- Lease Agreement
- Preliminary Official Statement
- Continuing Disclosure Agreement

Following are the professionals:

- Financial Advisor – Hilltop Securities
- Bond Counsel – Jones Walker
- Underwriter – Raymond James & Associates, Inc.

Specific Type of Contract: Long-term, fixed rate bonds.

Scope of Work: The proposed refunding bond issue includes funds for refunding all or a portion of the Corporation's Series 2017A Bonds.

Term of Contract: The proposed refunding bonds will mature on March 1, 2034.

Termination Options: The bond issue documents contain redemption provisions which can be used in case of market changes.

Contract Amount: JSU, through the JSU Educational Building Corporation, expects to issue up to a maximum of \$22,190,000 par value of fixed-rate bonds. Proceeds from the bond issue will support the proposed refunding transaction, costs of issuance, and the underwriter's discount.

Based on the Financial Advisor's report dated April 2, 2026, the proposed refunding debt amortization will have an estimated net present value savings of approximately \$660,000.

Funding Source for Contract: Operating revenues from the student recreation center and various campus facilities.

Contractor Selection Process: Underwriter, financial advisor, and bond counsel were selected based on experience and the firm's unsolicited proposals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for

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compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. Board staff recommends approval of this item.

10. **MSU – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A BOND RESOLUTION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING ALL OR A PORTION OF THE CORPORATION’S OUTSTANDING BONDS**

Agenda Item Request: Mississippi State University requests approval of a Bond Resolution and Supporting Documents to approve the resolution for the purpose of refunding all or a portion of the Corporation’s outstanding Series 2014B, 2015, 2017 and 2017A Bonds. The total NPV savings is estimated to be approximately 3% of the refunded bonds.

- Refunding (Maximum Par Amount): \$175,255,000
 - Series 2017A Bond proceeds were used to advance refund the Series 2011 and 2013 bonds.
 - Series 2017 Bonds were issued to finance Dudy Noble Baseball Stadium and to current refund the 2007A Bonds (Colvard Student Union improvements) and advance refund the Series 2009A-1 (new residence hall) and 2009A-2 Bonds (current refunding of Series 1998 Bonds).
 - Series 2015 Bonds were issued to finance the Dogwood and Deavenport Residence Halls project.
 - Series 2014B taxable Bonds were issued to finance the Old Main Academic Classroom building and the Fresh Foods dining facility.

MSU also requests approval of the following supporting documents:

- IHL Amending Resolution
- Ground Lease
- Lease Agreement
- Preliminary Official Statement
- Continuing Disclosure Agreement

Following are the professionals:

- Financial Advisor – Hilltop Securities
- Bond Counsel – Jones Walker
- Underwriters – Wells Fargo Bank National Association, Raymond James & Associates, Inc., and/or Stephens Inc.

Specific Type of Contract: Long-term, fixed rate bonds.

Scope of Work: The refunding bond issue includes funds for the refunding of all or a portion of the Corporation’s Series 2014B, 2015, 2017 and 2017A Bonds.

Term of Contract: The refunding bonds will mature on November 1, 2044.

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Termination Options: The bond issue documents contain redemption provisions which can be used in case of market changes.

Contract Amount: MSU, through the MSU Educational Building Corporation, expects to issue up to a maximum of \$175,255,000 par value of fixed-rate bonds. Proceeds from the bond issue will support the refunding transaction, costs of issuance, and the underwriters' discount.

Based on the Financial Advisor's report dated April 2, 2026, the proposed refunding debt amortization will have an estimated net present value savings of approximately \$5,197,657.

Funding Source for Contract: Various revenue streams including athletic revenues, residence hall rental revenues, and capital improvement fees will be used as funding sources.

Contractor Selection Process: Underwriters, financial advisor, and bond counsel were selected based on experience and the firm's unsolicited proposals.

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.

11. **MVSU - REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A BOND RESOLUTION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFUNDING ALL OR A PORTION OF THE CORPORATION'S OUTSTANDING SERIES 2015 BONDS**

Agenda Item Request: Mississippi Valley State University requests approval of a Bond Resolution and Supporting Documents to approve the resolution for the purpose of refunding of all or a portion of the Corporation's outstanding Series 2015 Bonds. The total NVP savings is estimated to be approximately 3% of the refunded bonds.

- Refunding, max par = \$13,050,000
 - Series 2015 Bond proceeds were used to refund the series 2007 bonds. The Series 2007 bond was issued to finance two new residence halls and make improvements and renovations to an existing residence hall project and to refund the Series 2000 Bonds.

MVSU also requests approval of the following documents:

- IHL Amending Resolution
- Ground Lease
- Lease Agreement

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- Preliminary Official Statement
- Continuing Disclosure Agreement

Following are the professionals:

- Financial Advisor – Hilltop Securities
- Bond Counsel – Jackson Walker
- Senior Manager Underwriter – Raymond James & Associates, Inc.

Contractor's Legal Name: N/A

History of Contract: Series 2015 Bond proceeds were used to refund the series 2007 bonds. The Series 2007 bond was issued to finance two new residence halls and make improvements and renovations to an existing residence hall project and to refund the Series 2000 Bonds.

Specific Type of Contract: Long-term, fixed rate bonds

Purpose: The purpose is to refund all or a portion of the Corporation's outstanding Series 2015 Bonds. The total NVP savings is estimated to be approximately 3% of the refunded bonds.

Scope of Work: The proposed refunding bond issue includes funds to refund all or a portion of the Corporation's Series 2015 Bonds.

Term of Contract: The proposed refunding bonds will mature on April 1, 2037.

Contract Amount: MVSU, through the MVSU Educational Building Corporation, expects to issue up to a maximum of \$13,050,000 par value of fixed-rate bonds. Proceeds from the bond issue will support refunding transaction, costs of issuance, and the underwriter's discount.

Funding Source for Contract: Rental revenues from the residence halls

Termination Options: The bond issue documents contain redemption provisions which can be used in case of market changes.

Contractor Selection Process: Senior Managing Underwriter, financial advisor, and bond counsel were selected based on experience and the firms' unsolicited proposals.

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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12. UMMC- REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO INITIATE THE BOND PROCESS TO ACHIEVE NET PRESENT VALUE SAVINGS FOR A PAR VALUE NOT TO EXCEED \$161,375,000 MILLION FOR SERIES 2017A REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2019 REVENUE BONDS AND SERIES 2023B TAXABLE REVENUE BONDS AS WELL AS TO APPROVE BOND COUNSEL, FINANCIAL ADVISOR, AND UNDERWRITERS

Agenda Item Request: The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) requests permission to issue through the Medical Center Educational Building Corporation (MCEBC) revenue bonds in one or more tax-exempt or taxable series to refund all or a portion of the outstanding Revenue Bonds, Series 2017A Revenue Bonds, Series 2019 Revenue Bonds and Series 2023B Taxable Revenue Bonds (the “Prior Bonds”).

UMMC also requests the payment of costs of issuance, sale and delivery of the bonds and approval of necessary bond documents.

Contractor’s Legal Name: Hilltop Securities will serve as financial advisor. Butler Snow LLP will serve as bond counsel, in accordance with the terms of the contractual agreement for legal services approved by the Office of Attorney General. Raymond James will serve as senior underwriter.

UMMC also requests that the Board review and approve the financial adviser’s report provided by Hilltop Securities.

Following are the professionals:

- Financial Advisor – Hilltop Securities
- Bond Counsel – Butler Snow LLP
- Senior Underwriter – Raymond James

UMMC requests that the Board waive the requirement found in Board Policy 906 for approval of the resolution granting permission for issuance of bonds at a subsequent meeting and that the Board approve the proposed resolution at its April 2026 meeting or delegate authority to the Finance Committee to approve the resolution prior to the next Board meeting so that UMMC may realize the opportunities presented by the bond issue in an expeditious manner.

History of Contract: MCEBC previously issued Prior Bonds in 2021. UMMC can realize a significant savings by refunding the Prior Bonds.

Specific Type of Contract: These bonds will be issued at fixed rates with a term that will clearly mirror the existing amortization schedules.

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Purpose: The primary purpose of issuing the bonds is to realize interest rate savings for UMMC by refunding the Prior Bonds.

Scope of Work: Preparation and sale of the bonds and related financial analysis and legal work.

Term of Contract: The term of the new bonds will closely match the term of the existing debt which is being refinanced.

Termination Options: The bond issue documents contain redemption provisions which can be used in case of market changes.

Contract Amount: MCEBC expects to issue up to \$161,375,000 million par value in fixed rate bonds for the purposes set forth above.

Funding Source for Contract: Patient Revenues

Contractor Selection Process: The senior underwriter, the financial advisor and bond counsel were selected based on past experience, and the firms' unsolicited proposals.

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.

13. USM- REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO REAFFIRM AND REAPPROVE THE BOND RESOLUTION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS PASSED BY THIS BOARD ON NOVEMBER 20, 2025. THE BOND RESOLUTION IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF BONDS AUTHORIZED TO \$152,500,000 FROM A PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$62,500,000 TO FINANCE UP TO \$35,000,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATION, EQUIPPING, AND LANDSCAPING OF THE REED GREEN COLISEUM ATHLETIC FACILITY AND OTHER ATHLETIC PROJECTS AND UP TO \$117,500,000 TO REFUND ALL OR A PORTION OF THE CORPORATION'S OUTSTANDING SERIES 2013 BONDS, SERIES 2015A BONDS, SERIES 2016 BONDS, AND THE SERIES 2017 BONDS.

Agenda Item Request: The University of Southern Mississippi requests approval of a Bond Resolution and Supporting Documents to affirm and reapprove the resolution and supporting documents passed by this Board on ,November 20, 2025, for the purpose of increasing the maximum principal amount of bonds authorized to \$152,500,00 from a previously authorized amount of not to exceed \$62,500,000 to be issued through the S. M. Educational Building Corporation to finance up to \$35,000,000 for the construction, renovation, equipping, and landscaping of the Reed Green Coliseum and other Athletic Facility improvements and/or the refunding of up to \$117,500,000 of all or a portion of the

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Corporation's outstanding Series 2013 Bonds, and Series 2015A Bonds, Series 2016 Bonds, and Series 2017 Bonds. The University, through the Corporation, intends to combine the new money bonds and refunding bonds into a single debt issuance transaction; however, the Bond Resolution does allow for the refunding bonds to be issued separately at a different date than the new money bonds for Reed Green Coliseum. The total NPV savings must equal or exceed 3% of the refunded bonds to pursue the refunding transaction.

Maximum par amount for combined funding = \$152,500,000

- New Money, max par = \$35,000,000
 - Reed Green Coliseum & other related athletic improvements (IHL #208-301)
- Refunding, max par = \$117,500,000
 - Series 2013 Bond proceeds were used to construct the Century Park South Residence Hall project and to refund the Series 1997A Bonds (original proceeds used for a Dormitory project).
 - Series 2015A Bond proceeds were used to advance refund for savings the Series 2006B Bonds (original proceeds used for the Village Residence Hall project) and Series 2007 Bonds (original proceeds used for the M.M. Roberts Stadium athletics project).
 - Series 2016 Bond proceeds were used for (1) the advance refunding and defeasance of the S.M. Educational Building Corporation Revenue Bonds, Series 2009 (Campus Facilities Improvements Project), issued in the original principal amount of \$49,900,000; and (2) acquiring from the University of Southern Mississippi Real Estate Foundation, Inc. that certain parking facility financed with the Certificates of Participation (University of Southern Mississippi Parking Facilities Construction Project), Series 2009, issued in the original principal amount of \$15,520,000 , and the advance refunding and defeasance of all of the outstanding 2009 COPs.
 - Series 2017 Bond proceeds were used for refunding of the S.M. Educational Building Corporation Revenue Bonds, Series 2013 (Residence Hall Construction and Refunding Project), issued on June 4, 2013, in the original principal amount of \$51,875,000, maturing on and after March 1, 2033.

USM also requests ratification and approval of the following documents:

- IHL Resolution
- Ground Lease
- Lease Agreement
- Preliminary Official Statement
- Continuing Disclosure Agreement

Following are the professionals:

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- Financial Advisor – Hilltop Securities
- Bond Counsel – Butler Snow LLP
- Underwriters – Raymond James & Associates, Inc., and Wells Fargo Bank National Association

Specific Type of Contract: Long-term, fixed rate bonds.

Scope of Work: The bond issue includes funds for renovations to the Reed Green Coliseum and other related athletic improvements and refunding of all or a portion of the Corporation's Series 2013 Bonds, Series 2015A Bonds, 2016 Bonds, and 2017 Bonds.

Term of Contract: The bonds will have a maximum maturity of 30 years for the new money construction and renovation projects. The refunding bonds will maintain their existing maturities and are expected to produce annual debt service savings.

Termination Options: The bond issue documents contain redemption provisions which can be used in case of market changes.

Contract Amount: USM through the S. M. Educational Building Corporation expects to issue up to a maximum of \$152,500,000 par value, fixed rate bonds. Proceeds from the bond issue will support the refunding transaction, construction and renovation costs for Reed Green Coliseum and other related athletic improvements, capitalized interest, if any, costs of issuance, and the underwriter's discount.

Based on the Financial Advisor's report dated March 19, 2026, the proposed refunding debt amortization for Series 2016 and Series 2017 will have an estimated net present value savings of \$5,724,482.

Funding Source for Contract: Various Athletic revenues, sales and hotel tax revenues, rental revenues from the residence halls, and parking decal revenues.

Contractor Selection Process: Underwriters, financial advisor, and bond counsel were selected based on experience and the firms' unsolicited proposals.

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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1. **USM – INTENT TO MODIFY CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

OFFERING

A. Certificate program title: **Health Services Administration**

Responsible academic unit: College of Nursing and Health Professions, School of Health Professions

Level: post-baccalaureate

Total credit hours: 12

CIP code: 51.2211

Effective date: August 2026

Program summary: The proposed certificate focuses on the application of policy analysis, public administration, business management, and communications to the planning and management of health services delivery systems in the public and private sectors and prepares individuals to function as health services administrators and managers. The certificate will include instructions in health systems planning, public health organization and management, public health policy formulation and analysis, finance, business and operations management, economics of health care, organizational and health communications, marketing, human resources management, and public health law and regulation.

B. Certificate program title: **Population Health Practice**

Responsible academic unit: College of Nursing and Health Professions, School of Health Professions

Level: post-baccalaureate

Total credit hours: 12

CIP code: 51.2207

Effective date: August 2026

Program summary: The proposed certificate is designed to prepare students for employment or advancement in community-based public health roles. The certificate will provide foundational training aligned with the core competencies of health education specialists and serve as preparation for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) examination. It is designed for working professionals, recent graduates, and those seeking additional credentials to enter or progress within the public health workforce.

DELETING

C. Certificate program title: **Instructional Technology**

Responsible academic unit: College of Business and Economic Development, School of Leadership

Level: post-baccalaureate

Total credit hours: 12

CIP code: 13.0501, 8049

Effective date: August 2026

Rationale: The Instructional Design and Technology emphasis areas within the Human Capital Development PhD and MS programs are being closed, and the course offerings

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for the Certificate are the same as those degree plans.

D. Certificate program title: **Business Essentials**

Responsible academic unit: College of Business and Economic Development, School of Finance

Level: post-baccalaureate

Total credit hours: 12

CIP code: 52.0101, 8096

Effective date: August 2026

Rationale: The Business Essentials certificate has had low enrollment and completion for several years.

2. **SYSTEM – 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.

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, Delta State University and the University of Southern Mississippi submit the intent to offer already approved degree programs by distance learning to the Board for information.

A. DSU – Degree program title: **Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Business Administration**

CIP code, sequence: 52.0201, 5895

Total credit hours: 121

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

Effective date: June 2026

B. DSU – Degree program title: **Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Management**

CIP code, sequence: 52.0201, 5048

Total credit hours: 120

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

Effective date: June 2026

C. DSU – Degree program title: **Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Marketing**

CIP code, sequence: 52.1401, 5051

Total credit hours: 120

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Cost to offer by distance learning: \$0 (cost is offset by online course fee)
Effective date: June 2026

D. DSU – Degree program title: Bachelor of Science in Education (BSEd) in Elementary Education

CIP code, sequence: 13.1202, 5055

Total credit hours: 120

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

Effective date: June 2026

E. USM – Degree program title: Bachelor of Science (BS) in Computer Science

CIP code, sequence: 11.0101, 5552

Total credit hours: 120

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

Effective date: August 2026

F. USM – Degree program title: Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Educational Administration P-12

CIP code, sequence: 13.0401, 1067

Total credit hours: 66

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

Effective date: August 2026

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

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SYSTEM: REAL ESTATE ITEMS APPROVED SUBSEQUENT TO THE MARCH 19, 2026, 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.

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

1. DSU-GS 102-298 BROOM HALL WINDOWS & DOORS

Approval Request #1: Schematic Design Documents

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

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 12, 2026

Approval Request #2: Waiver of Design Development Documents

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

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 12, 2026

Project Initiation Date: June 20, 2024

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

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$1,409,799.80

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JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

1. JSU-GS 103-317 DORMITORY REPAIRS (VARIOUS) – BUILDING 100 & 200 UNIVERSITY POINTE

Approval Request #1: Construction Documents

Board staff approved Construction Documents as submitted by Vernell Barnes Architect, PLLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 16, 2026

2. JSU-GS 103-344 JOC TB ELLIS INTERIOR RENOVATIONS

Approval Request: Award of Construction Contract

Board staff approved the Award of Contract in the amount of \$2,485,714.94 to Alliant Construction. The contractor was selected under DFA's Job Order Contracting method of procurement.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 16, 2026

Project Initiation Date: November 20, 2025

Design Professional: Eley Guild Hardy Architects, P.A.

General Contractor: Alliant Construction

Total Project Budget: \$3,000,000.00

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

3. MSU-IHL 205-332 ARTESIA ROAD EXTENDED

Approval Request: Award of Construction Contract

Board staff approved the Award of Contract in the amount of \$1,535,627.41 to the apparent low bidder, Cook & Son, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 17, 2026

Project Initiation Date: May 18, 2023

Design Professional: Garver, LLC

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

Approval Request #1: Construction Documents

Board staff approved Construction Documents as submitted by Eley Guild Hardy Architects, P.A.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 11, 2026

Approval Request #2: Advertise

Board staff approved request to re-advertise for receipt of bids.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 11, 2026

5. MSU-IHL 205-359C WISE CENTER – FARM ANIMAL HOSPITAL EARLY SITE PACKAGE

Approval Request: Change Order #1

Board staff approved Change Order #1 in the *credit* amount of \$169,562.04 and fourteen (14) additional days to the contract of Byrum Construction, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, April 2, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #1 includes the following: a credit to Alternate #2 for 12” condensation lines at the Farm Animal Hospital, relocation of 6” water line in conflict with junction box JB-01, including required fittings, pipe and materials, relocation of approximately 500 linear feet of 10” water line in conflict with the proposed storm drain, relocation and rerouting of existing 12” water line at the Laminitis area, and a credit for Alternate #2 for 12” condensation lines at the Laminitis Center.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: One (1) change order for a total *credit* amount of \$169,562.04.

Project Initiation Date: October 17, 2024

Design Professional: Eley Guild Hardy Architects, P.A.

CMA: AnderCorp, LLC

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General Contractor: Byrum Construction, Inc.

Phased Project Budget: \$1,333,221.00

Total Project Budget: \$36,000,000.00

6. MSU-IHL 205-359D WISE CENTER – FARM ANIMAL HOSPITAL EQUINE ENTRANCE

Approval Request: Change Order #1

Board staff approved Change Order #1 in the amount of \$778.75 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of M&P Construction, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 23, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #1 includes the following: a credit for installation of Nyloplast drain basins in lieu of concrete, and installation of 6” drain line at the south canopy an additional 50’ to the existing grinder pump.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: One (1) change order for a total amount of \$778.75.

Project Initiation Date: October 17, 2024

Design Professional: Eley Guild Hardy Architects, P.A.

CMA: AnderCorp, LLC

General Contractor: M&P Construction, LLC

Phased Project Budget: \$2,266,367.00

Total Project Budget: \$36,000,000.00

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

7. MUW-GS 104-221 MCDEVITT BACKUP ELECTRICAL SYSTEM

Approval Request: Award of Construction Contract

Board staff approved the Award of Contract in the amount of \$1,195,000.00 to the apparent low bidder, Shivers Construction Co., LLC.

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Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 10, 2026

Project Initiation Date: October 17, 2024

Design Professional: Dewberry Engineers, Inc.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

8. MVSU-GS 106-258 ACADEMIC SKILLS BUILDING RENOVATION PHASES II & III

Approval Request: Change Order #4

Board staff approved Change Order #4 in the amount of \$139,848.22 and thirty-five (35) additional days to the contract of Thrash Commercial Contractors, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 20, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #4 includes the following: a credit for labor and material for omitting two (2) 4" boxes and 6"x6" boxes on the AV detail, installation of handrails in the auditorium and in-line exhaust fans, replacement of parts for AHU-2 to make it function properly, changing out boiler piping controls, adding cut-in outlets and tying adjacent power for speakers in classroom, the audio system in the auditorium and replacement of parts for AHU-1.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Four (4) change orders for a total amount of \$433,698.94.

Project Initiation Date: October 15, 2015

Design Professional: ArchitectureSouth, P.A.

General Contractor: Thrash Commercial Contractors, Inc.

Total Project Budget: \$8,939,632.82

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

9. UM-IHL 207-525.1 UNIVERSITY BUILDING DEMOLITION & NEW PARKING – MARRIED STUDENT HOUSING DEMO

Approval Request #1: Construction Documents

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

Approval Status & Date: Approved, April 1, 2026

Approval Request #2: Advertise

Board staff approved request to advertise for receipt of bids.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, April 1, 2026

10. UM-IHL 407-008.2 NW MECHANICAL PLANT (ELEC. PH II) – 13KV ELEC. DIST. IMPROVEMENTS, PART B

Approval Request: Award of Construction Contract

Board staff approved the Part B Award of Contract in the amount of \$1,017,400.00 to the apparent lowest responsive bidder, Advanced Electric Company, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 27, 2026

Project Initiation Date: January 6, 2023

Design Professional: Atwell & Gent, P.A.

General Contractor: Advanced Electric Company, Inc.

Phased Project Budget: \$1,785,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$25,200,000.00

11. UM-IHL 407-014 NEW SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY (JONES HALL)

Approval Request: Appointment of Commissioning Agent

Board staff approved the appointment of Commissioning & Green Building Solutions, Inc. as the Commissioning Agent for the project.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 23, 2026

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**12. UM-IHL 407-014.1 NEW SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY (JONES HALL) –
YERBY HALL ABATEMENT**

Approval Request: Award of Construction Contract

Board staff approved the Phase I Award of Contract in the amount of \$118,000.00 to the apparent low bidder, Snyder Environmental & Construction, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 12, 2026

Project Initiation Date: March 17, 2016

Design Professional: JH&H Architects Planners Interiors, P.A.

General Contractor: Snyder Environmental & Construction, LLC

Phased Project Budget: \$231,631.00

Total Project Budget: \$138,000,000.00

UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

**13. UMMC-IHL 209-576 MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE
CHILDREN**

Approval Request: Change Order #5

Board staff approved Change Order #5 in the amount of \$290,626.85 and three hundred fourteen (314) additional days to the contract of Mid-State Construction of Mississippi, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 25, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #5 includes the following: demolition of the existing twenty (20) resident room doors, and installation of new door frames and 4' x 7' doors, removal and installation of all ADA door openers, light switches, and associated devices.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Five (5) change orders for a total amount of \$1,033,445.96.

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Project Initiation Date: April 25, 2019

Design Professional: Eley Barkley Dale, a Joint Venture

General Contractor: Mid-State Construction of Mississippi, LLC

Total Project Budget: \$15,900,000.00

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

**14. USM-IHL 208-301.1A REED GREEN COLISEUM RENOVATION – UTILITY
RELOCATION**

Approval Request: Award of Construction Contract

Board staff approved the Phase IA Award of Contract in the amount of \$223,337.00 to the apparent low bidder, Gulf Coast Solutions, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 12, 2026

Project Initiation Date: January 20, 2022

Design Professional: Wier Boerner Allin Architecture, PLLC

CMA: Codaray Construction, LLC

General Contractor: Gulf Coast Solutions, LLC

Phased Project Budget: \$256,232.33

Total Project Budget: \$43,170,506.50

**15. USM-IHL 208-301.1B REED GREEN COLISEUM RENOVATION – DOME
PAINTING**

Approval Request #1: Construction Documents

Board staff approved Construction Documents as submitted by Wier Boerner Allin Architecture, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 30, 2026

Approval Request #2: Advertise

Board staff approved request to advertise for receipt of bids.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 30, 2026

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EDUCATION & RESEARCH CENTER

16. ERC – GS 111-074 ERC FIRE ALARM SYSTEM

Approval Request: Change Order #1

Board staff approved Change Order #1 in the amount of \$42,392.09 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of McInnis Systems, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, March 11, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #1 includes the following: installation of access controls to two (2) existing doors and add access to two (2) new doors, replacing the existing 24-circuit emergency panel in the IHL Basement with a 42-circuit emergency panel, and route emergency power to access control panel and the recirculating pump.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: One (1) change order for a total amount of \$42,392.09.

Project Initiation Date: January 9, 2025

Design Professional: Schultz & Wynne, P.A.

General Contractor: McInnis Systems, Inc.

Total Project Budget: \$500,000.00

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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 Brunini, Grower, Grantham and Hewes, PLLC (statements dated 3/17/26 and 3/18/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$1,400.00 and \$175.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,575.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statement dated 3/6/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$547.00, represents services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 547.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC (statement dated 3/11/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$2,127.50, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 2,127.50

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Brunini (statement dated 2/17/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$262.50, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 262.50

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Lightfoot Franklin White, LLC (statements dated 2/16/26 and 3/17/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$21,696.50 and \$29,593.25, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 51,289.75

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mayo Mallette, PLLC (statements dated 2/10/26, 3/5/26 and 3/5/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$175.00, \$800.00 and \$900.00, represent services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,875.00

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Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statements dated 1/12/26, 2/2/26, 2/2/26, 2/10/26, 3/9/26, 3/10/26, 3/10/26, 3/10/26, 3/13/26, 3/13/26, 3/16/26, 3/16/26 and 3/27/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$539.00, \$2,650.00, \$2,155.00, \$547.00, \$2,650.00, \$2,650.00, \$2,650.00, \$1,700.00, \$8,150.00, \$3,495.00, \$8,150.00, \$3,495.00 and \$2,650.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 41,481.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Alexander Law, P.A. (statements dated 2/10/26, 2/10/26, 2/10/26, 2/10/26, 2/24/26, 3/5/26, 3/5/26, 3/5/26 and 3/5/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$3,065.00, \$1,891.50, \$835.50, \$665.00, \$443.75, \$749.00, \$2,411.50, \$1,825.00 and \$802.50, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 12,688.75

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 1/21/26, 2/10/26, 2/12/26, 2/12/26, 2/12/26, 2/16/26, 2/16/26, 2/16/26, 2/16/26, 2/27/26, 2/27/26, 2/27/26, 3/6/26, 3/6/26, 3/10/26, 3/12/26, 3/12/26, 3/12/26, 3/12/26 and 3/12/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$60.00, \$1,569.50, \$73.00, \$1,462.10, \$2,336.00, \$2,810.70, \$24,097.10, \$187.00, \$11,073.40, \$10,705.60, \$8,058.40, \$4,143.10, \$255.50, \$2,664.50, \$3,176.10, \$438.00, \$7,592.00, \$3,745.90, \$4,484.90 and \$760.30, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 89,693.10

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Currie Johnson & Myers, P.A. (statements dated 2/6/26, 2/6/26, 2/6/26, 2/6/26, 2/6/26 and 3/9/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$9,943.20, \$220.00, \$397.00, \$1,562.20, \$115.50 and \$320.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 12,557.90

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Forman Watkins & Krutz, LLP (statement dated 2/9/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (This statement, in the amount of \$5,706.00, represents services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 5,706.00

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Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Gore, Kilpatrick & Dambrino, PLLC (statements dated 1/28/26 and 2/25/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$4,898.55 and \$80.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 4,978.55

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman (statements dated 2/18/26 and 2/18/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$433.19 and \$24.85, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 458.04

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mayo Mallette, PLLC (statements dated 2/9/26 and 2/9/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$306.00 and \$1,155.00, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,461.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Page, Kruger & Holland, PA (statements dated 2/2/26, 2/2/26, 2/2/26, 2/4/26, 2/4/26, 3/2/26, 3/2/26, 3/2/26, 3/2/26 and 3/2/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$100.00, \$100.00, \$160.00, \$34.00, \$140.90, \$280.00, \$85.00, \$121.00, \$440.00 and \$80.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,540.90

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Steen, Dalehite & Pace, LLC (statements dated 12/31/25, 1/14/26, 2/20/26 and 3/4/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$2,964.00, \$2,218.50, \$50.00 and \$191.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 5,423.50

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Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Vernis & Bowling of Mississippi, PLLC (statements dated 1/22/26, 1/22/26, 1/22/26, 1/30/26, 1/30/26, 1/30/26, 1/30/26, 1/30/26, 1/30/26, 2/20/26, 2/20/26, 2/20/26, 2/20/26, 2/20/26, 2/20/26, 2/20/26 and 2/20/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$2,031.47, \$247.50, \$941.95, \$142.50, \$210.00, \$1,675.00, \$328.51, \$1,318.76, \$3,252.50, \$576.16, \$142.50, \$2,975.82, \$196.50, \$250.00, \$785.00, \$4,215.03 and \$300.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 19,589.20

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Watkins & Eager, PLLC (statements dated 2/9/26, 2/9/26, 2/9/26, 2/9/26, 2/9/26, 2/9/26, 2/9/26, 2/9/26, 2/9/26, 2/11/26, 2/11/26, 2/12/26, 3/6/26, 3/11/26, 3/12/26, 3/12/26, 3/12/26, 3/12/26, 3/12/26 and 3/12/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$33.00, \$40.00, \$80.00, \$560.00, \$595.00, \$47.00, \$280.00, \$350.00, \$525.00, \$12,670.00, \$2,415.00, \$4,095.00, \$2,625.00, \$4,130.00, \$70.00, \$140.00, \$350.00, \$111.96, \$350.00 and \$2,660.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 32,126.96

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by the Wise, Carter, Child & Caraway, PA (statements dated 2/2/26 and 2/2/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$525.00, \$1,809.95, represent services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 2,334.95

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Starnes Davis Florie, LLP (statement dated 2/28/26) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$9,261.90, represents services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 9,261.90

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 Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP (statement dated 2/23/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$252.00, represents services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 252.00

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Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mendelsohn Dunleavy, P.C. (statements dated 7/10/25, 3/9/26, 3/9/26, 3/9/26 and 3/9/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$79.00, \$242.90, \$355.50, \$400.00 and \$987.50, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 2,064.90

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Stites & Harbison, PLLC (statements dated 3/17/26 and 3/17/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$875.50 and \$2,615.00, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 3,490.50

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 2/18/26, 2/18/26 and 2/18/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$1,606.00, \$255.50 and \$430.00, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 2,291.50

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Thomas Horstemeyer, LLP (statements dated) 12/31/25, 12/31/25, 12/31/25, 12/31/25, 12/31/25, 12/31/25, 12/31/25, 12/31/25, 1/30/26, 1/30/26, 1/30/26, 1/30/26, 1/30/26 and 1/30/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$960.00, \$960.00, \$960.00, \$1,620.00, \$1,024.00, \$566.51, \$1,226.00, \$1,089.40, \$960.00, \$1,020.00, \$1,483.92, \$1,389.17, \$150.00 and \$1,409.41, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 14,818.41

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Stites & Harbison, PLLC (statements dated 1/23/26, 2/24/26, 2/24/26, 2/24/26, 2/24/26 and 3/17/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$190.00, \$266.00, \$706.00, \$2,394.00, \$646.00 and \$684.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 4,886.00

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Workman Nydegger (statements dated 1/14/26, 1/14/26, 1/14/26, 1/14/26, 2/11/26, 2/11/26, 2/11/26, 2/11/26, 2/11/26, 2/11/26 and 2/11/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi Medical Center. (These statements, in the amounts of \$200.63, \$2,150.00, \$1,140.00, \$657.02, \$7,532.13, \$200.00, \$3,450.00,

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\$8,679.71, \$1,516.59, \$131.00 and \$1,138.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with intellectual property patents.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 26,795.08

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mendelsohn Dunleavy, P.C. (statements dated 11/4/24, 11/4/24, 12/8/25, 12/8/25, 12/8/25, 12/8/25, 12/8/25, 12/8/25, 12/8/25, 12/8/25, 12/8/25, 1/8/26, 1/8/26, 1/8/26, 1/8/26, 3/9/26, 3/9/26, 3/9/26, 3/9/26 and 3/9/26) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$420.00, \$350.00, \$1,490.00, \$1,013.00, \$250.00, \$400.00, \$210.00, \$8,020.00, \$4,500.00, \$140.00, \$1,730.00, \$300.00, \$175.00, \$70.00, \$1,060.00, \$2,745.00, \$210.00, \$948.00, \$4,622.50 and \$4,885.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

TOTAL DUE.....\$ 32,538.50

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1. **SYSTEM – 2026 SPRING COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE**

Alcorn State University

Time/Date: 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 9, 2026
Location: Davey L. Whitney Health, Physical Education and Recreation Complex
Speaker: Ms. Pelicia E. Hall, Executive Vice President and Chief Regulatory Officer, ViaPath technologies

Time/Date: 1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 9, 2026
Location: Davey L. Whitney Health, Physical Education and Recreation Complex
Speaker: Ms. Pelicia E. Hall, Executive Vice President and Chief Regulatory Officer, ViaPath technologies

Delta State University

Graduate (College of Business and Aviation, College of Education, Arts, and Humanities, and College of Nursing, Health, and Sciences)

Time/Date: 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 7, 2026
Location: Bologna Performing Arts Center

Undergraduate (College of Business and Aviation)

Time/Date: 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 8, 2026
Location: Bologna Performing Arts Center

Undergraduate (College of Education, Arts, and Humanities)

Time/Date: 11:00 a.m., Friday, May 8, 2026
Location: Bologna Performing Arts Center

Undergraduate (College of Nursing, Health, and Sciences)

Time/Date: 2:00 p.m., Friday, May 8, 2026
Location: Bologna Performing Arts Center

Jackson State University

Graduates

Time/Date: 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 1, 2026
Location: Lee E. Williams Athletics and Assembly Center

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Undergraduate (College of Liberal Arts, College of Education & Human Development)

Time/Date: 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 2, 2026

Location: Lee E. Williams Athletics and Assembly Center

Undergraduate (College of Science, Engineering & Technology; College of Health Sciences; College of Business)

Time/Date: 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 2, 2026

Location: Lee E. Williams Athletics and Assembly Center

Mississippi State University

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) Commencement

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Location: Humphrey Coliseum

Doctoral Graduation and Hooding Ceremony (Ph.D. and Ed.D.)

Time/Date: 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2026

Location: Bettersworth Auditorium, Lee Hall

Meridian Campus

Time/Date: 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Location: MSU Riley Center

Speaker: Dr. Mark E. Keenum, President, Mississippi State University

Starkville Campus

College of Arts and Sciences, College of Integrative Studies

Time/Date: 9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 14, 2026

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: 2:30 p.m., Thursday, May 14, 2026

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 15, 2026

Location: Humphrey Coliseum

Speaker: Dr. Mark E. Keenum, President, Mississippi State University

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Academic Affairs, Bagley College of Engineering, College of Forest Resources, College of Professional and Continuing Studies, College of Veterinary Medicine

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m., Friday, May 15, 2026

Location: Humphrey Coliseum

Speaker: Dr. Mark E. Keenum, President, Mississippi State University

Mississippi University for Women

School of Education, College of Nursing and Health Sciences (ASN, BSN and DNP)

Time/Date: 11:30 a.m., Friday, May 8, 2026

Location: Rent Auditorium, Whitfield Hall

College of Arts & Sciences, College of Business & Professional Studies, and College of Nursing and Health Sciences (Non-Nursing Majors)

Time/Date: 2:30 p.m., Friday, May 8, 2026

Location: Rent Auditorium, Whitfield Hall

Mississippi Valley State University

Time/Date: 8:00 a.m., Saturday, May 9, 2026

Location: R.W. Harrison Sports Complex

Speaker: TBA

University of Mississippi

Time/Date: 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 9, 2026

Location: The Grove

Speaker: Brett Young, Ole Miss Alum and Country Music Recording Artist

University of Mississippi Medical Center

Time/Date: 10:00 a.m., Friday, May 22, 2026

Location: Mississippi Coliseum

The University of Southern Mississippi

Graduate Students – All Colleges

Time/Date: 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 14, 2026

Location: Bernard Reed Green Coliseum, Hattiesburg, MS

Undergraduates – College of Arts and Sciences

Time/Date: 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 15, 2026

Location: Bernard Reed Green Coliseum, Hattiesburg, MS

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*Undergraduates – College of Business and Economic Development
College of Education and Human Sciences
College of Nursing and Health Professions*

Time/Date: 2:00 p.m., Friday, May 15, 2026

Location: Bernard Reed Green Coliseum, Hattiesburg, MS

Gulf Coast Campus

Graduates and Undergraduates – All Colleges

Time/Date: 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 16, 2026

Location: Mississippi Coast Coliseum, Biloxi, MS

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. **MSU** – On March 10, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Access and Maintenance Easement Agreement between Mississippi State University and the City of Starkville, Mississippi to allow the City to construct and maintain a multiuse path through MSU property at Garrard Road, Oktibbeha County, MS. This agreement conveys a permanent and perpetual non-exclusive easement on, over and across and rights to use the curb cuts, roadways, access areas, driveways, aisles, parking areas, walkways and sidewalks now and hereafter located on the subject property for the purpose of construction and maintenance of the multiuse path. 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.
- b. **MSU** – On March 10, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between Mississippi State University and Edward D. Gregory for office space located at 3211 Old Mobile Avenue in Pascagoula, Mississippi for a MS LIFT Resource and Referral Center operated by the University in accordance with the terms of a grant awarded to the University by the Mississippi Department of Human Services. The term of the lease is two years effective March 1, 2026. The total cost of the agreement is \$67,200 payable in 24 monthly installments of \$2,800 each with payments due on the first of each month. 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 and Policy 707.03 Approval for Prepayment for Goods or Services. A copy of the document is on file in the IHL Board Office.
- c. **MSU** – On March 17, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Public Trust Tidelands Lease between Mississippi State University and the State of Mississippi, by and through the Secretary of State, Public Lands Division, to allow the University to construct approximately 74 riprap breakwaters in Biloxi Bay around Keesler Air Force Base, the VA Medical Center, and other nearby

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properties, encompassing approximately 1.35 miles of shoreline and 0.25 miles of marsh. The term of the lease is 20 years effective January 1, 2026. The Secretary of State has deemed this a rent exempt lease because the project is beneficial for the water bottoms and shoreline. The cost of the project will be paid with grant funds, specifically the National Coastal Resilience Fund awarded to MSU. MSU has confirmed that the use of these grant funds for this project is in compliance with the terms of the grant and legally permissible. According to MSU, “MSU started working on living shorelines in 2015 and is recognized as one of the most prominent living shorelines teams across the world. We routinely assist with research, designs, and construction of living shoreline projects. Due to our recognition as living shoreline experts, we were awarded a National Coastal Resilience Fund award (pooled funding through NOAA and Department of Defense that is managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation) to construct and monitor this living shoreline project.” 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.

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PERSONNEL ACTION REPORT

1. Sabbatical

Mississippi State University

FROM: Julia A. Osman; Associate Professor of History; *from* salary of \$84,572.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary of \$21,143.00 for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 1, 2027, to May 15, 2027; professional development [*Originally approved by IHL Board March 19, 2026*]

CORRECTED: This item was rescinded.