

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING  
December 18, 2025**

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, That the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning of the State of Mississippi met in a special called meeting via Zoom at 12:00 p.m. on December 18, 2025, and pursuant to notice, to each and every member of said Board. The following members participated via Zoom: Ms. Amy Arrington, Mr. Don Clark, Dr. Steven Cunningham, Mr. Jerry L. Griffith, Mr. Jimmy Heidelberg, Ms. Teresa Hubbard, Mr. Gee Ogletree, Mr. Hal Parker, Mr. Gregg Rader, and Mr. Charlie Stephenson. Dr. Ormella Cummings and Mr. Bruce Martin were absent. The meeting was called to order by President Gee Ogletree.

**To comply with Miss. Code Ann. §25-41-5, as amended, all votes taken during this Zoom meeting were recorded by name in a rollcall.** As reflected in the official meeting notice, the meeting was held to act on the Jackson State University presidential search, including consideration of the leadership profile and related policies.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Discussion and receipt of confidential and privileged legal advice from the Board's attorney, including advice regarding a pending IHL litigation matter, the discussion of which in open session would be detrimental to IHL's interest.

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

The Board received and discussed privileged legal advice from our attorney regarding pending litigation filed against IHL. **No action was taken.**

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

Trustee Cunningham, Chair of the Jackson State University Board Search Committee, noted that Board Policy 201.0509 Institutional Executive Officer/Commissioner of Higher Education Search Process, subsection c Extended Search Process, item 4 Position Qualifications, Advertisement and Search Schedule, states that "the Board shall approve any candidate profile." A candidate profile for the Jackson State University presidential search has been drafted. The development of the profile was a cooperative effort between the JSU marketing and communications team, IHL staff, and the AGB Search consultants. It has been shared with members of JSU Search Advisory

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Constituency and has been provided to trustees for their review. On motion by Trustee Cunningham, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, with Trustees Cummings and Martin absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the JSU candidate profile as written.

Next, Trustee Cunninham noted that Board Policy 201.0510 Application by Interim or Acting Institutional Executive Officer for Institutional Executive Officer Position states that a person serving as acting or interim president of the institution at the time the formal advertisement for presidential candidates is made may not be considered as a candidate for the permanent presidential position. On motion by Trustee Cunningham, seconded by Trustee Heidelberg, with Trustees Cummings and Martin absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to waive this portion of Policy 201.0510 for the current JSU presidential search so that the interim president of Jackson State University may be considered as a candidate for the position of president, if she chooses to apply. By waiving this policy, the Board will be permitted to consider an application submitted by JSU's interim president in addition to applications submitted by other candidates who may be recruited through the national search process for the position of JSU president.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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



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President, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning



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Commissioner, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning