

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING  
February 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 February 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 Martin introduced Father Patrick Perkins, from the Episcopal Church of the Mediator in Meridian, MS, who provided the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Griffith, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Board meeting held on January 22, 2026 and February 9, 2026.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- President Gee Ogletree presented the 2026 Karen Cummins Community Service Award to Governor Tate Reeves in recognition of his dedication and service to the communities and people of Mississippi over the past 23 years, as well as his acknowledgment and support of the role played by Mississippi's public universities in contributing to the state's growth and workforce participation. Accepting the award and plaque on his behalf is Mammie Maberry, director of constituent services for Governor Reeves. A copy of the resolution is included in the *February 19, 2026 Board Working File*.
- 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 Hubbard, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the following Consent Agendas.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

1. **UM** – Approved the modification of the following existing academic degree program.  
Rename  
Current program title: Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Biochemistry  
New program title: Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Biochemistry for Health Sciences

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CIP code, sequence: 26.0202, 5820

Total credit hours: 120

Effective date: August 2026

2. **UM** – Approved the modification of the following existing academic unit.

Reorganize

Unit involved in proposed reorganization: Center for Health and Sports Performance

Current location of unit: School of Applied Sciences

Proposed location of unit: Office of Research and Economic Development

Effective date: July 2026

**FINANCE AND BUDGET**

3. **ASU** – Approved the request to enter a one-year extension to the current contract with Instructure, Inc. and to pay the annual contract amount of \$115,035.34. Instructure, Inc. provides Canvas Learning Management System cloud hosting services for students, including 24x7 technical support and Tier 1 user support. The term of the agreement is February 15, 2026 through February 14, 2027. The one-year renewal contract totals \$115,035.34, with payment due annually. Payment terms are Net 30. The contract will be funded by E & G funds. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.
4. **JSU** – Approved the request to enter a lease agreement with Dahill Office Technology Corporation/Xerox Corporation Public Sector Operations (Xerox) for the lease of 125 multifunctional copier devices. The term of the contract is April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2031. The total contract cost is \$1,235,697.60. A breakdown of costs is included in the *February 19, 2026 Board Working File*. This rate includes 125 multifunctional devices, Xerox Secure Access, a HID card reader, XDA, Fleet Management Portal, server-fax kits for RightFax integration, on-site maintenance, toner, supplies, and services. The agreement will be funded with Education and 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.
5. **JSU** – Approved the request to amend the laundry room lease agreement with Caldwell and Gregory, LLC which includes installation and maintenance of commercial laundry units within the JSU residential hall, One University Place. The term of the lease is February 19, 2026 through February 19, 2028. The cost related to this amendment is \$133,920.00. The October 2025 agreement included a contract cost of \$191,808.00. The total contract cost shall be \$325,728. The contract will be funded by Auxiliary 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. **MUW** – Granted retroactive approval of the 2023 Amendment 3 to the Barnes and Noble agreement which extended the contract for 3 additional years ending in 2027 and the 2025 increase in the student per credit hour charge from \$20 to \$20.50. The Board approved Amendment 4 to increase the fee from \$20.50 per credit hour to \$23 per credit hour. Barnes and Noble will provide required textbooks and access to course materials on the first day of class at \$23 per credit hour to students participating in the FDC program. The term of

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Amendment 3 is April 1, 2024 through Marcy 31, 2027. The Amendment does not alter the term of the contract. This is a revenue contract. The increase is expected to generate an annual commission of \$30,000. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed agreement for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. The agreement is on file in the Board Office.

7. **UMMC** – Approved the request to enter a new Medical Office Building Lease (Lease) with NMFMG Holdings, LLC (NMFMG) to lease approximately 6,386 square feet of clinical space at 1397 Belk Boulevard, Oxford, Mississippi, for use as clinic and office space for UMMC Family Medicine services providers and staff. Pursuant to IHL Board Policy 707.03 Approval of Prepayment for Goods and Services, the Board approved the request to allow prepayment of rent on the first day of each month. The term of the agreement is sixty (60) months, from March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2031. The estimated cost of the Lease is \$1,100,000 over the sixty (60) month term. UMMC’s base rent will be \$17,561.50 per month (\$210,738.00 annually), with a two percent (2%) increase beginning in year 2. The agreement 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**

8. **JSU** – Approved the request to increase the project budget for GS 103-317, JOC - University Pointe Residence Hall Improvements, from \$2,400,659.20 to \$4,924,461.00 for an increase of \$2,523,801.80, to modify the scope of the project, to add SB 2468, Laws of 2024, as a funding source, and to proceed with the design phase under the previously appointed design professional, Vernell Barnes Architect, PLLC. University Pointe Residence Hall was built in 2002 with a bed capacity of 444 and has been closed. JSU intends to renovate the entire complex in phases as funding allows, starting with buildings at the front and progressing to the back beginning with buildings 100 and 200 identified as the highest priority. Funds are available from SB 2001, 1st Extraordinary Session Laws of 2025 – Reauthorization of SB 3002, Laws of 2023 (\$743,166.60); SB 2468, Laws of 2024, (4,181,294.40).
9. **ASU** – Approved the request to name the Biotechnology Building on its Lorman campus as the “Willie Simmons Biotechnology Building.” Mr. Simmons is entering his second term as Central District Transportation Commissioner, which covers 22 counties with a population of approximately one million people. Prior to being elected as Commissioner, Simmons served as a Mississippi State Senator for more than 26 years. For the last 8 years, he served as Chairman of the Senate Highways and Transportation Committee. Before that time, he served as a combat veteran of the Vietnam War. He is a graduate of Alcorn State University and received an M.S. Degree and Ed.S. Degree from Delta State University.
10. **JSU** – Approved the request to amend the service agreement with Trane U.S., Inc. (Trane) to correct a calculation discrepancy identified by the vendor. This Amendment will correct the total amount of the contract from \$5,426,920.00 to \$5,415,381.00, a reduction of \$11,539 over the life of the contract. Following a recent internal assessment conducted by Trane, the company identified a calculation discrepancy. The resulting correction reduced the quarterly service invoice by approximately \$525 for FY 2025–2026 and produced

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corresponding reductions to the annual service costs for each remaining year of the contract. The agreement authorizes Trane to provide comprehensive preventive maintenance, routine inspections, emergency repairs, and performance optimization for all HVAC systems in JSU's non-residential buildings, ensuring compliance with industry standards. The term of the agreement is July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030. 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.

11. **UM** – Approved the request to increase the budget for the ESPC Phase 5 project from \$11,526,585 to \$12,234,675 for an increase in the amount of \$708,090. The amendment modifies the scope of work for Lamar Hall to completely replace the existing building automation system controls throughout the building instead of the partial controls upgrade and overlay that was originally planned. The construction period and guaranteed energy savings performance period for the contract remain unchanged. The construction period will be 18 months from the execution date of the contract, with a subsequent guaranteed energy savings performance period of 19 years. The construction cost will increase by \$708,090 to \$10,749,497 while the cost for annual measurement & verification and ongoing energy management support will remain unchanged. The source of funds for this amendment will be internal replacement and renewal (R&R) 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.
12. **UM** – Approved the request to change the name of the recently completed Ole Miss Softball Complex to the “Alisa and Mark Bourne Stadium” in honor of their generous \$5 million donation. The Bournes have a long history of supporting Ole Miss Athletics and the university and Alisa is a longtime university employee. Though neither attended the University of Mississippi, their first visit to campus sparked a deep admiration for UM. They have been devoted Rebel fans ever since, attending countless athletic events over the past two decades.
13. **USM** – Approved the Amendment to the Sublease Agreement between USM and Systems Analysis & Integration, Inc. d/b/a Systems Integrated (Systems Integrated), which provides for the sublease of portions of port facilities at the Port of Gulfport. Systems Integrated subleases approximately 3,059.74 Rentable Area square feet for a total monthly rental rate of \$10,825.77. The Amendment will extend the Term of the Sublease Agreement until February 28, 2029. The Sublease provides for a total monthly rental rate of \$10,825.77 currently, or approximately \$454,682.34 for the proposed Term as amended. The rent amount is subject to certain adjustments on an annual basis in accordance with CPI as well as maintenance and insurance costs incurred by USM. 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.
14. **USM** – Approved the exterior design of IHL 208-301, Renovation of Reed Green Coliseum. A copy of the renderings is available in the *February 19, 2026 Board Working File*.

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**LEGAL**

15. **MSU** – Approved the request to enter a contract with the law firm of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP, as outside counsel, to provide services necessary in assisting the University with intellectual property matters. The term of the contract is two years effective February 28, 2026. The blended hourly rate for attorneys is \$315 and \$95 per hour for paralegal services. To help manage per-project costs, the university may 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 term of the agreement is \$75,000. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$75 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$150 million. This request has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General.
16. **MSU** – Approved the request to enter a contract with the law firm of Brunini Grantham Grower and Hewes, PLLC to perform services necessary in assisting the university with general construction, architectural and real property-related matters. The term of the contract will be two years beginning March 19, 2026. The blended hourly rate for attorneys is \$350 per hour. Other hourly rates shall be \$125 for paralegal services performed by Marena Gray, a paralegal specializing in construction, and \$100 for all other paralegal services. The annual maximum amount payable under the 2-year term of the agreement is \$75,000 per year. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$15 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$30 million. This request has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General.
17. **MSU** – Approved the request to renew a contract with the law firm of Jones Walker, LLP to perform services necessary in assisting and advising the University on legal issues concerning the review of strategic financing options, tax-exempt bond arbitrage, and rebate compliance and the use of bond-financed building and other matters relating to bond issues. The term of the renewal will be two years beginning March 19, 2026. The hourly rates are \$165 for Special Counsel, \$225 for Partners, and \$60 for paralegal services. The annual maximum amount payable under the 2-year term of the agreement is \$100,000 per year. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$50 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$100 million. This request has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General.
18. **MSU** – Pending approval by the Office of the Attorney General, the Board approved the request to enter a contract with Sun Sovereign, LLC d/b/a Ware | Immigration as outside counsel to provide services as necessary in preparing labor certification documents on behalf of the university for its employees who seek permanent residence status and related immigration matters. The term of the contract will be two years beginning March 21, 2026. Rates are set out in the fee schedule below. The annual maximum amount payable under the two-year term of the agreement is \$50,000 per year. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$3 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$3 million.

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**Schedule of Legal Fees for Academia**

Please note that the Firm charges an administrative fee of \$150 at the beginning of each case matter to cover copies, postage, and FedEx fees incurred during the Firm's representation.

**Nonimmigrant Petitions and Processes**

H-1B petition	\$2750*
H-1B withdrawal	\$200
H-4 EAD	\$750
*Additional legal fee of up to \$2500 may apply for substantive requests for evidence	
TN petition or border/consulate processing	\$2750
E-3 petition or consular processing	\$2750
O-1 petition	\$8000
O-1 extension or amendment petition (firm handled original)	\$4000
O-1 additional rush fee if case needs to be filed w/in 60 days	\$2000
J-1 waiver (IGA or hardship)	\$9000
J-1 waiver (Conrad)	\$9000
J-1 waiver (no objection)	\$2000*
*Additional legal fee of \$2000 if sponsor views are requested	
I-539 Fee for Dependents	\$1000
DS-160 Prep	\$1500*
	\$750/dependent
*Does not include administrative processing	

**Permanent Residence Process with Labor Certification: Faculty**

Special Handling labor certification	\$3000
If position must be readvertised	\$3500
Additional fee if audited	\$1500-\$2500
Immigrant petition (I-140)	\$2500-\$3000

**Permanent Residence Process with Labor Certification: Non-Faculty**

Labor certification	\$6500
Additional fee if audited	\$1500-2500
Additional fee if subject to supervised recruitment	\$3000
Immigrant petition	\$2500

**Permanent Residence Process: Extraordinary Ability/Outstanding Professors and Researchers and National Interest Waiver**

Outside Professors Immigrant petition	\$8000
Extraordinary Ability	\$10,000
National Interest Waiver	\$10,000
EA, OP/OR, or NIW RFE or NOID: case by case determination up to	\$2500

**Adjustment of Status (any Employment-Based Permanent Residence Matter)**

Adjustment of status (AOS) and related applications (I-765, I-131, etc.), principal	\$2500
“Standalone” AOS and related applications, principal	\$3000
Adjustment of status and related applications, spouse, if together with principal application and I-140	\$1500
Adjustment of status of each child, concurrent with I-140	\$1000
“Standalone” adjustment of status, spouse (not concurrent with I-140)	\$2000
“Standalone” adjustment of status, child	\$2000
I-485 J (standalone cases)	\$1500

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**Employment Authorization and Advance Parole Renewal**

Employment Authorization Renewal per individual	\$750
Advance Parole Renewal per individual	\$750

**Marriage Based Permanent Residence**

Principal Applicant	\$4000
Each child, if any	\$2500

**Other Services**

AR-11 Change of Address	\$150
Interview rescheduling	\$150
Biometrics rescheduling per person	\$150
Advisory Opinion	\$1500
Expedite requests	\$500-750
Auto Revalidation Letter	\$200
Interview preparation	\$500
Interview attendance in New Orleans or Seattle	\$500
Interview attendance outside New Orleans or Seattle	\$1500
	+travel expenses

**General Legal Advice and Unusual Matters Which Fall Outside This Fee Schedule**

**Such matters will be billed at our hourly rates:**

Partners and Of Counsel	per hour billed	\$450
Associate Attorneys	per hour billed	\$300
Paralegals	per hour billed	\$150

**PERSONNEL REPORT**

**19. Employment**

**Mississippi State University**

- Vergie M. Bash; *rehired retiree*; Academic Records Assistant, Dean of Business; salary \$26,469.78 per annum, pro rata; Designated Funds; 12-month contract; effective November 15, 2025
- David William Brand; *rehired retiree*; Senior Research Associate, Plant and Soil Sciences; salary \$32,430.00 per annum, pro rata; Designated Funds; 12-month contract; effective July 16, 2025
- David Layne Campbell; *rehired retiree*; Lecturer, ITIDCCL; salary \$30,121.74 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; effective August 16, 2025
- Robbie Janice Denson; *rehired retiree*; Teacher Intern Supervisor, Office of Clinical/Field-Based Instruction; salary \$23,476.77 per annum, pro rata; Designated Funds; 12-month contract; effective January 01, 2026
- Todd M Hall; *rehired retiree*; Network Architect, Information Tech Infrastructure; salary \$41,995.20 per annum, pro rata; Designated Funds; 12-month contract; effective September 22, 2025
- Sherman Wessel Jack; *rehired retiree*; Visiting Instructor, CVM Academic Affairs; salary \$36,576.93 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; effective June 30, 2025

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- Cathy L. Lammons; *rehired retiree*; Special Projects Coordinator, MS State University Foundation; salary \$52,000.00 per annum, pro rata; Restricted Funds; 12-month contract; effective October 6, 2025
- Christopher D. McDaniel; *rehired retiree*; Lecturer, Poultry Science; salary \$28,000.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; effective August 16, 2025
- Tony Carnail Minor; *rehired retiree*; Campus Transit Bus Operator, Curriculum, Transportation; salary \$23,493.60 per annum, pro rata; Designated Funds; 12-month contract; effective November 01, 2025
- Anita C. Phillips; *rehired retiree*; Business Manager III, CVM Office of the Dean; salary \$40,165 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; effective November 4, 2025
- Mohsen Razzaghi; *rehired retiree*; Visiting Professor, Mathematics & Statistics; salary \$86,831.00 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; effective October 16, 2025
- Jeffrey Rupp; *rehired retiree*; Lecturer, Management & Information Systems; salary \$27,000.00 per annum, pro rata; Designated Funds; 9-month contract; effective June 04, 2025
- Roy D Seale; *rehired retiree*; Senior Research Associate, FWRC-Sustainable Bioproducts; salary \$31,200.00 per annum, pro rata; Restricted Funds; 12-month contract; effective October 10, 2025

**Mississippi Valley State University**

- Jacqueline Gibson Preastly; Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs; salary \$121,620 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; effective January 5, 2026

20. **Change of Status**

**Alcorn State University**

- Sandra Barnes; *from* Acting Dean, School of Education & Psychology and Associate Provost of Undergraduate Education and Student Success; salary \$170,692 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; *to* Associate Provost of Undergraduate Education and Student Success; salary \$144,200 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; effective January 1, 2026
- Renardo Murray; *from* Associate Dean/Associate Professor/Interim Chair, Fine Arts; salary \$112,538 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; *to* Acting Dean, College of Arts and Sciences/Associate Professor/Interim Chair, Fine Arts; salary \$150,758 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; effective January 1, 2026

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21. **Sabbatical**

**Mississippi University for Women**

- Travis Hagey; Associate Professor of Biology; salary \$57,036 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 13, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Dorothy Berglund; Department Chair and Professor of Family Science; salary \$76,995 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 10.5-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 13, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Valentin Bogdan; Professor of Music; salary \$61,132 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 11, 2027 to May 10, 2027; professional development

**University of Mississippi**

- Gay Marie Barnard; Associate Professor of Pharmacy Administration, Research Associate Professor in the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Associate Professor of Public Health; salary \$156,000 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027; professional development
- Robert Barnard; Professor of Philosophy, salary \$93,667 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027, professional development
- Sarah Bilsky; Associate Professor of Clinical Psychology, salary \$86,330 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Josh Bloomekatz; Associate Professor of Biology, salary \$91,999 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Luca Bombelli; Professor of Physics and Astronomy, salary \$126,500 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Lauren Bone Noble; Assistant Professor of Movement for the Actor, salary \$66,936 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development (Contingent on being awarded tenure by July 1.)
- John Steve Brewer; Professor of Biology, salary \$116,395 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027; professional development

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- Richard Buchholz; Professor of Biology and Director of the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation Research; salary \$107,170 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027; professional development
- Lei Cao; Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering; salary \$155,782 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027; professional development
- Weixing Mark Chen; Chair and Professor of Public Policy Leadership; salary \$161,791 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Cindy Choi; Interim Chair and Associate Professor of Nutrition and Hospitality Management; salary \$95,122 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027; professional development
- Simone Delorme; Associate Professor of Anthropology and McMullan Associate Professor of Southern Studies; salary \$81,232 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027; professional development
- Adam Estes; Professor of Music; *from* salary \$84,765 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary \$42,382.50 per annum, pro rata for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to May 8, 2027; professional development
- Lauren Ferry; Assistant Professor of Political Science; salary \$76,282 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development (Contingent on being awarded tenure by July 1.)
- Carolyn Freiwald; Professor of Anthropology; salary \$94,265 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Selim Giray; Associate Professor of Music and Director of Orchestral Studies; salary \$75,865 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027; professional development
- Md Sakib Hasan; Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering; salary \$115,960 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development (Contingent on being awarded tenure by July 1.)
- Jody Holland; Associate Professor of Public Policy Leadership; salary \$82,717 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027; professional development

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- Toshikazu Ikuta; Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders; salary \$99,503 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027; professional development
- Byunghyun Jang; Professor of Computer and Information Science; salary \$128,978 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Seongbong Jo; Associate Professor of Pharmaceutics, Research Associate Professor in the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences; salary \$146,130 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027; professional development
- Jonathan Klingler; Associate Professor of Political Science; salary \$81,321 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027; professional development
- Fei Lan; Associate Professor of Religion; salary \$75,155 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Marc Lerner; Associate Professor of History; *from* salary \$89,481 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; *to* salary \$44,740.50 per annum, pro rata for sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to May 8, 2027; professional development
- John Lobur; Professor of Classics; salary \$93,701 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Martial Longla; Associate Professor of Mathematics; salary \$88,365 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Joel Mobley; Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Undergraduate Program Coordinator: Senior Scientist I at the National Center for Physical Acoustics; salary \$106,500 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027; professional development
- Daniel Riche; Professor of Pharmacy Practice, Research Professor in the National Center for Natural Products Research and in the Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences; salary \$151,487 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 12-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Laura Sheppardson; Associate Chair and Associate Professor of Mathematics; salary \$90,542 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027; professional development

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- James Taylor; Associate Professor of Nutrition and Hospitality Management; salary \$89,424 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Don Unger; Associate Professor of Writing and Rhetoric; salary \$74,121 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- D’Andre Walker; Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies; salary \$96,188 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development
- Wen Wu; Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering; salary \$108,101 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective January 19, 2027 to May 8, 2027, professional development (Contingent on being awarded tenure by July 1.)
- Saijun Zhang; Associate Professor of Social Work; salary \$95,696 per annum, pro rata; E&G Funds; 9-month contract; no change in salary during sabbatical period; E&G Funds; effective August 20, 2026 to December 31, 2026; professional development

**REGULAR AGENDAS**

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Presented by Trustee Teresa Hubbard, Chair

On motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Stephenson, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #1 as submitted on the Academic Affairs Agenda. On motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Cunningham, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #2. On motion by Trustee Hubbard, seconded by Trustee Rader, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #3.

1. **Mississippi College** – Approved the Stage 1 Application – declaration of intent/need to establish a new professional nursing program for Mississippi College. This is the first stage in a three-stage process for establishing a new registered nursing degree program, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). A completed application for Stage I has been submitted which declares their intent and provides supportive evidence of the need for the establishment of the DNP degree program at Mississippi College School of Nursing. The DNP degree will be a DNP Nurse Educator (for nurse educators who are looking to advance their careers in teaching and education) and DNP Executive Leadership (for nurses who want to lead at the organizational level rather than direct patient care focus). The application includes support from the University President, Provost and Executive Vice President, and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Mississippi College;

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the establishment of a local advisory committee; evidence of obtaining professional advice from qualified nurse educators; substantive evidence of need for establishment of a new degree program; current institutional catalog, philosophy/mission and goals of the institution; vision and purpose for establishing a new nursing degree program; evidence of full institutional accreditation; educational, physical and fiscal resources (budget); sources for potential students; nursing programs offerings in the state; data on potential faculty; availability of supporting academic courses; and a tentative timeline for development and implementation of the nursing program. Notice of Mississippi College's intent/need to establish a new professional nursing program was posted on the IHL website for thirty days, providing an avenue for public comments. Nursing deans and directors were given an opportunity to provide feedback regarding the proposed DNP degree program. Approval of Stage I allows Mississippi College to progress to Stage II - Qualify for Initial Accreditation. Stage II includes development of curriculum, submission of reports, and a site visit by IHL. Following the site visit, a recommendation is provided to the Board of Trustees regarding Stage II, which allows the School of Nursing permission to admit students to the new degree program. Stage III- Qualify for Full Accreditation occurs during the final semester of the first graduating class, in conjunction with the national accrediting body.

2. **UM** – Approved the request to add the following new center, as follows:  
Center title: Center on Collegiate Gambling  
Center location: William Magee Institute for Student Wellbeing; Division of Student Affairs  
Scope: Extensive Scope and Outreach  
Type: Type 1 (Academic, Teaching, or Research)  
Effective date: April 2026
3. **UM** – Approved the request to add new academic degree programs.
  - a. Bachelor of Science (BS) in Anthropology  
CIP code: 45.0201  
Total credit hours: 120  
Effective date: August 2026
  - b. Bachelor of Science (BS) in Sociology  
CIP code: 45.1101  
Total credit hours: 120  
Effective date: August 2026

**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 Agenda. On motion by Trustee Stephenson, seconded by Trustee Cunningham, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #2. Trustees Arrington and Clark recused themselves from discussing or voting on item #3 on the Finance and Budget Regular

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Agenda by leaving the room before there was any discussion or vote regarding the same. With Trustees Arrington and Clark out of the room, on motion by Trustee Stephenson, seconded by Trustee Griffith, with Trustees Arrington and Clark absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #3. Trustee Arrington returned to the room following the discussion and vote on item #3. Trustee Clark recused himself from discussing or voting on item #4 on the Finance and Budget Regular Agenda by remaining out of the room while there was any discussion or vote regarding the same. With Trustee Clark out of the room, on motion by Trustee Stephenson, seconded by Trustee Hubbard, with Trustee Clark absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #4. Trustee Clark returned to the room following the discussion and vote on item #4.

1. **MSU** – Pursuant to 32 CFR Part 117 National Industrial Security Program Operating Manual (NISPOM dated 12/21/20), the Board approved the resolution temporarily excluding the Interim Vice President for Research and Economic Development from access to classified contract information. This Vice President position is responsible for the National Industrial Security Program (NISP) and requires access to classified contract information to direct the administration of the program. Therefore, the person filling the position must have a security clearance at the same level of the entity (MSU). If the individual does not possess classified access eligibility they must be excluded until their personal clearance level is established. Upon affirmation of the temporary exclusion, MSU will be in adherence to 32 CFR Part 177.9(g) and protect its Facility Security Clearance (FCL). Having the FCL designation makes MSU eligible for classified contracts from the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, NASA and other agencies under NISP. The NISP was established by Executive Order in 1993 for the protection of classified information. Title 32 of the United States Code Part 117 The NISPOM Rule prescribes the requirements, restrictions and other safeguards to prevent unauthorized disclosure of classified information. Legal Staff has reviewed the proposed resolution for compliance with applicable law and finds the same to be acceptable. A copy of the resolution is available in the Board Office.
2. **SYSTEM** – Approved the request to amend the funding priorities required for the 2027 Legislative Budget Request (LBR). The amendment revises the proposed funding priority for Alcorn State University Agricultural Units to \$9,020,613.
3. **UM** – Pursuant to IHL Board Policy 906 Educational Building Corporations, the Board approved the request to issue tax-exempt and/or taxable bonds through the University of Mississippi Educational Building Corporation (UMEBC). The 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 debt issuance will not exceed \$245 million. The loan term will not exceed 30 years. The Board approved paying for the capitalized interest, if necessary, the costs of issuance, sale and delivery of

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said bonds. The Board approved the financial advisor's report provided by Hilltop Securities and the appointment of the following professionals: Financial Advisor – Hilltop Securities; Bond Counsel – Butler Snow LLP; and Senior Underwriters – Raymond James & Associates, Inc. Bond counsel will be compensated at \$1.90 per \$1,000 dollars for the first \$25,000,00 of bonds issued and \$1.15 per \$1,000 dollars of bonds issued over and above \$25,00,000. The total 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. UM expects to issue up to a maximum of \$245 million par value, fixed rate bonds. Proceeds from the bond issue will support the project funds, capitalized interest, cost of issuance and the underwriter's discount. Based on the Financial Advisor's report dated December 17, 2025, the proposed debt amortization will have an average annual debt payment of \$16,657,975 at an expected all-in true 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.

4. **UMMC** – Approved the request to enter a Lease agreement with Madison HMA, LLC (Madison HMA) in Canton, Mississippi for approximately 3,605 square feet of clinical and office space located in the Medical Office Building adjacent to UMMC's Madison campus, and will be used for UMMC rehabilitation services providers and staff to support the care needs of patients in the surrounding areas. Pursuant to IHL Board Policy 707.03 Approval of Prepayment for Goods and Services, the Board approved the request to allow prepayment of rent on the first day of each month. The term of the lease shall be five (5) years, beginning on March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2031. The estimated total cost of the lease is \$675,000 over the five (5) year term. UMMC's initial base rent is \$34.36 per square feet with an annual increase of two-percent (2%) beginning in year 2. The agreement 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 AGENDA**

Presented by Trustee Gregg Rader, Chair

Trustee Ogletree recused himself from discussing or voting on items #1 and #2 on the Real Estate Regular Agenda by leaving the room before there was any discussion or vote regarding the same. With Trustee Ogletree out of the room, on motion by Trustee Rader, seconded by Trustee Parker, with Trustee Ogletree absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve items #1 and #2 as submitted on the Real Estate Agenda.

1. **MSU** – Approved the request to increase the project budget for IHL 205-360, Leo Seal Jr. Football Complex Addition, from \$3 million to \$11 million, for an increase of \$8 million. The budget increase is needed primarily to cover early procurement of materials and equipment with extended lead times. The project will expand and modernize the existing facility over three phases. Funds are available from Athletics Designated Funds.

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2. **MSU** – Approved the exterior design for IHL 205-360, Leo Seal Jr. Football Complex Addition. A copy of the renderings is available in the *February 19, 2026 Board Working File*.

**LEGAL AGENDA**

Presented by Trustee Jimmy Heidelberg, Chair

Trustee Ogletree recused himself from discussing or voting on item #1 on the Legal Regular Agenda by remaining out of the room while there was any discussion or vote regarding the same. With Trustee Ogletree out of the room, on motion by Trustee Heidelberg, seconded by Trustee Clark, with Trustee Ogletree absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #1 as submitted on the Legal Regular Agenda. Trustee Ogletree returned to the room following the discussion and vote on item #1. Trustee Clark recused himself from discussing or voting on item #2 on the Legal Regular Agenda by leaving the room before there was any discussion or vote regarding the same. With Trustee Clark out of the room, on motion by Trustee Heidelberg, seconded by Trustee Cummings, with Trustee Clark absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve item #2. Trustee Clark returned to the room following the discussion and vote on item #2. On motion by Trustee Heidelberg, seconded by Arrington, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to move item #3 to the Executive Session agenda for consideration.

1. **MSU** – Approved the request to enter a contract with the law firm of Adams and Reese, LLP, as outside counsel, to provide services necessary in assisting the University with oil, gas and mineral rights. The term of the contract is one year effective February 1, 2026. The hourly rate for attorneys is \$420 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 \$1 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$2 million. This request has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General.
2. **UM** – Approved the request to enter a contract for legal services with Butler Snow LLP as Bond Counsel to the University of Mississippi Educational Building Corporation (“EBC”) to perform services including: preparing necessary bond documents; reviewing documents with respect to the tax exempt status of tax-exempt bonds; coordinating tasks and the delivery of documents from other key parties involved in the transaction; dealing with rating agencies as necessary; coordinating the closing; and providing the standard Bond Counsel opinion with respect to the tax exempt status of the tax-exempt EBC Bonds and enforceability of the bond documents. The term of the agreement is one-year effective February 19, 2026 with an option to renew for one additional year by mutual agreement of all parties. Bond Counsel fee is based upon numerous factors, including but not limited to the size of the financing, the complexity of the transaction, and the schedule for closing. The fee will be \$1.15 per \$1,000 of bonds issued. This is based on consummation of financing in the current proposed manner and is subject to adjustment in the event of material modifications to the financing structure. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$100 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$200 million. This request has been approved by the Office of the Attorney General.

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3. **UMMC** – Settlement of Tort Claim Number 3726. **(THIS ITEM WAS MOVED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR CONSIDERATION.)**

**ADMINISTRATION/POLICY AGENDA**

Presented by Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr.

Item #1 was approved as shown below.

1. **SYSTEM** – Election of the current Vice President of the Board of Trustees for the term of beginning May 8, 2026. President Ogletree opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice President of the Board.

Trustee Hubbard nominated Trustee Gregg Rader to serve as Vice President for the term of May 8, 2026, through May 7, 2027. President Ogletree announced the nominations are closed.

On motion by Trustee Heidelberg, seconded by Trustee Griffith, all Trustees legally present and participating voted in the affirmative, therefore, it was **RESOLVED**, that Trustee Gregg Rader was elected Vice President of the Board for the term of May 8, 2026, through May 7, 2027.

**INFORMATION AGENDAS**

Presented by Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr.

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

1. **UM** – Intent to offer the following existing degree program by distance learning:  
Degree program title: Master of Science (MS) in Exercise Science  
Total credit hours: 31  
CIP code, sequence: 31.0505, 4431  
Cost to offer by distance learning: \$0  
Effective date: August 2026

**FINANCE AND BUDGET**

2. **UMMC** – The Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (ITS), as a contracting agent for UMMC, entered into Order Form 519814 under the current Master Subscription Agreement with Workday, Inc. (Workday). Order Form 519814 is a 25-month subscription order for a new Worker Profile Management software used to support visibility into extended workforce information, candidate information, onboarding, assignment history, and reporting. The term of Order Form 519814 is for the period December 5, 2025 through January 18, 2028. The term of the Master Subscription Agreement will remain unchanged and will expire January 18, 2028. The total cost for Order Form 519814 is \$159,105. The total cost of the Master Subscription will now be \$27,563,948.60.

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**REAL ESTATE**

3. **SYSTEM** – The Board received the Real Estate items that were approved by the Board staff subsequent to the January 22, 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. **USM** – Pursuant to IHL Board Policy 1102.04, Trustee Jimmy Heidelberg, as Board Legal Committee Chair, on behalf of the Board, approved the University of Southern Mississippi’s emergency request to hire Starnes Davis Florie, LLP as outside counsel to assist, advise and represent the university in various legal matters arising out of and related to NCAA investigations, general legal advice for collegiate athletics, and litigation related to these areas. The term of the agreement is effective upon approval through June 30, 2027. The hourly rates will be \$445 for senior partners, \$395 for partners, a discounted partner rate of \$369 for Daniel Feig, \$280 for associate attorneys, and \$180 for paralegal services. The maximum amount payable under the term of this agreement is \$75,000. This firm carries professional liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$10 million per claim with an annual aggregate of \$10 million. This request is pending approval by 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. **MSU** – On January 28, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Permanent Easement between Mississippi State University and the Mississippi Transportation Commission c/o Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) to allow MDOT to perform a bridge replacement project on MS Highway 53 over the Wolf River Relief. The Mississippi Transportation Commission will pay \$1,850 to the University in exchange for the permanent easement. 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. **UM** – On January 15, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between the University of Mississippi and Mississippi Veterans Affairs (MSVA) for MSVA’s use of office space located on UM’s Tupelo campus at 1918 Briar Ridge Road in Tupelo, MS. The University of Mississippi is charging no fee for this use. The value is proximal access for UM-Tupelo staff and students, eligible dependents, and veterans from the community to federal and state veteran’s benefits counsel, document preparation and other services. The Mississippi Veterans Affairs previously used this space for two years from 2023 to 2025. This is a new agreement effective October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2027. The IHL Associate Commissioner for Legal Affairs and Risk Management reviewed this item and

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- 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.
- c. **UM** – On January 15, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between the University of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi Research Foundation at Insight Park for 155 square feet of office space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Innovation Hub, specifically Suite 256, for use by the university’s School of Education’s World Class Teach Program (WCTP). The term of the lease is five years (60 months) effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030. The total cost of the lease is \$15,000 payable in installments of \$3,000 each. The first payment was due on the commencement date of the lease and each payment thereafter is due annually on July 1, 2026 through July 1, 2029. 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. **UM** – On January 15, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between the University of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi Research Foundation at Insight Park for 1300 square feet of office space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Innovation Hub, specifically Suite 282, for use by the University’s William Magee Institute for Student Wellbeing. The term of the lease is four years effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029. The total cost of the lease is \$96,000 payable in installments of \$24,000 each. The first payment was due on January 1, 2025 and each payment thereafter is due annually on July 1, 2026 through July 1, 2028. 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. **UM** – On January 15, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Lease Agreement between the University of Mississippi and the University of Mississippi Research Foundation at Insight Park for two offices, including a kitchen and conference room, for use by the School of Education – Principal Corp. The term of the lease is five years effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2030. The total cost of the lease is \$85,000 payable in installments of \$17,000 each. The first payment was due on the commencement date of the lease, and each payment thereafter is due annually on July 1, 2026 through July 1, 2029. 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. **USM** – On January 7, 2026, Commissioner Alfred Rankins, Jr. approved the Revocable Pipeline Easement between the University of Southern Mississippi and Delta Mississippi Gas Company, LLC. The purpose of the easement is to facilitate the installation, repair and maintenance of natural gas pipeline facilities and meters for the provision of natural gas supply and service to buildings and facilities at the

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Gulf Coast Research Lab, Halstead campus. The term of the easement is indeterminate until revoked. 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.

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY  
BOARD SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT  
Wednesday, February 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 10:00 A.m. The following items were discussed.

1. The Committee discussed the process and status of the search for a president at Jackson State University. **No action was taken.**
2. Executive Session

On motion by Trustee Cummings, seconded by Trustee Ogletree, with Trustee Rader absent and not voting and Trustees Griffith, Martin, Parker, and Stephenson participating via Zoom, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an Executive Session. On motion by Trustee Heidelberg, seconded by Trustee Ogletree, with Trustee Rader absent and not voting and Trustees Griffith, Martin, Parker, and Stephenson 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 JSU presidential search, the Committee will transact business and discuss personnel matters relating to the job performance, character, and professional competence of a person holding a specific position at Jackson State University. The Committee will receive and discuss confidential legal advice from counsel concerning compliance with federal and state law regarding the search.

The discussion of the topics above in open session would be detrimental to IHL's legal interest.

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

The Committee transacted business and discussed personnel matters relating to the job performance, character, and professional competence of a person holding a specific position at Jackson State University. **No action was taken.**

The Committee received and discussed confidential legal advice from counsel concerning compliance with federal and state law regarding the search. **No action was taken.**

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

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

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

**HEALTH AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE REPORT  
Wednesday, February 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 3:30 p.m. The following items were discussed.

1. The Committee discussed the monthly financial summary and received the quality clinical update. **No action was taken.**
2. Executive Session

On motion by Trustee Heidelberg, seconded by Trustee Ogletree, with Trustee Cummings absent and not voting and Trustees Arrington, Martin, Parker, and Stephenson participating via Zoom, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine whether to declare an Executive Session. Trustee Arrington recused herself from discussing or voting on any items during executive session by disconnecting from Zoom. On motion by Trustee Ogletree, seconded by Trustee Stephenson, with Trustees Arrington and Cummings absent and not voting and Trustees Martin, Parker, and Stephenson participating via Zoom, all Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously **to enter Executive Session** for the three reasons reported to the public and stated in these minutes.

The Committee will receive and discuss three items involve strategic business decisions of a public hospital, including decisions to open a new service line and the implementation of capital improvements. The three items also include discussions regarding the location, relocation or expansion of a business, medical service or an industry. The discussion of the three topics above in open session would be detrimental to IHL's legal interest.

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

The Committee discussed three strategic business decisions of a public hospital, including decisions to open a new service line and the implementation of capital improvements. **No action was taken.**

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

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

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

- President Ogletree announced the next meeting will be March 18, 2026.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On motion by Trustee Hubbard, 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 Stephenson, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously **to enter Executive Session** for the four reasons reported to the public and stated in these minutes, as follows:

First, the Board will receive and discuss privileged legal advice regarding the settlement of litigation pending against the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Second, the Board will receive and discuss privileged legal advice from the Board's attorney regarding the Board's constitutional and statutory authority under federal and state law and prospective litigation.

Third, the Board will receive and discuss prospective strategic business decisions of University of Mississippi Medical Center as a public hospital, including, without limitation, implementation of capital improvements and applications for certificate of need with the State Department of Health.

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Fourth, the Board will receive and discuss a report and course of action on security plans regarding a cyber incident at University of Mississippi Medical Center.

The discussion of the four topics above in open session would be detrimental to IHL's legal interest.

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

On motion by Trustee Heidelberg, seconded by Trustee Stephenson, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the settlement of Tort Claim No. 3726, styled as Mary Case vs. University of Mississippi Medical Center, et al., as recommended by counsel.

The Board received and discussed a report and course of action on security plans regarding a cyber incident at University of Mississippi Medical Center. **No action was taken.**

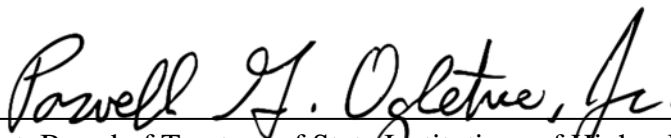
The Board received and discussed privileged legal advice from the Board's attorney regarding the Board's constitutional and statutory authority under federal and state law and prospective litigation. **No action was taken.**

The Board received and discussed prospective strategic business decisions of University of Mississippi Medical Center as a public hospital, including, without limitation, implementation of capital improvements and applications for certificate of need with the State Department of Health. **No action was taken.**

**On motion by Trustee Stephenson, seconded by Trustee Arrington, 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 Cummings, seconded by Trustee Arrington, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

  
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President, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning

  
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Commissioner, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning

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

**EXHIBITS**

- Exhibit 1      Real Estate items that were approved by the IHL Board staff subsequent to the January 22, 2026 Board meeting.
- Exhibit 2      Report of the payment of legal fees to outside counsel.

# EXHIBIT 1

February 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 101-332 MATH & SCIENCE BUILDING RENOVATIONS**

#### **Approval Request #1: Construction Documents**

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

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 15, 2026

#### **Approval Request #2: Advertise**

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

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 15, 2026

### **2. ASU-GS 101-333 WHITNEY COMPLEX RENOVATION & EXPANSION**

#### **Approval Request #1: Construction Documents**

Board staff approved Construction Documents as submitted by CDFL Architects + Engineers, P.A.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 15, 2026

#### **Approval Request #2: Advertise**

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

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 15, 2026

### **3. ASU-GS 101-341 – HVAC IMPROVEMENTS HEERF MATH & SCIENCE**

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

Board staff approved Change Order #4 in the amount of \$21,894.00 and thirty (30) additional days as submitted by Brown & Root Industrial Services, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 2, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #4 includes the following: Raise primary power to transformer, including new primary wire and connections to pad mounted transformer to accommodate a raised equipment pad.

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

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Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Four (4) total change orders in the amount of \$107,055.00.

Project Initiation Date: August 17, 2023

Design Professional: Engineering Resource Group, Inc.

General Contractor: Brown & Root Industrial Services, LLC

Total Project Budget: \$5,577,304.68

4. **ASU-GS 101-344B – JOC HVAC IMPROVEMENTS HEERF – WALTER WASHINGTON**

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

Board staff approved Change Order #2 in the amount of \$6,078.00 and zero (0) additional days as submitted by Brown & Root Industrial Services, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 2, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #2 includes the following: Infilling of existing openings in mechanical room gyp board walls.

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) total change orders in the amount of \$99,080.00.

Project Initiation Date: August 17, 2023

Design Professional: Dewberry Engineers, Inc.

General Contractor: Brown & Root Industrial Services, LLC

Total Project Budget: \$5,874,345.79

## DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

5. **DSU-GS 102-280 – APRA INFRASTRUCTURE - WATER COLLECTION & CONVEYANCE**

**Approval Request: Change Order #3**

Board staff approved Change Order #3 in the amount of \$36,964.40 and one hundred twenty-seven (127) additional days to the contract of Don M. Barron Contractor, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 5, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #3 includes the following: installation of a new manhole, installation of sewer mainline with invert deeper than 7', re-routing water line cross-bore through gravity sewer mainline, abandoning a portion of existing gravity sewer mainline, replacing 10" sewer mainline through pipe burst methods, reconnection of service following pipe burst, and a credit for the removal of remaining quantities not being utilized.

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: Three (3) change orders for a total amount of \$37,779.23.

Project Initiation Date: March 21, 2024

Design Professional: W.L. Burle Engineers, P.A.

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General Contractor: Don M. Barron Contractor, Inc.

Total Project Budget: \$1,925,000.00

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

**Approval Request: Schematic Design Documents**

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

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 4, 2026

Project Initiation Date: June 20, 2024

Design Professional: Shafer Zahner Zahner, PLLC

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$2,800,000.00

## MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

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

**Approval Request: Change Order #7**

Board staff approved Change Order #7 in the amount of \$205,892.00 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Roy Anderson Corporation.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 4, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #7 includes the following: furnishing and installation of additional expansion joint material, primary feeder extension, sewer line repairs, furnishing and installation of interior wood trim at aluminum-clad windows, an additional layer of drywall in Classroom 156, furnishing and installation of additional thru-wall and sheet metal flashing at storefront openings, repairs to the masonry site wall, modifications to the structural steel and framing at the attic level, replacement of Door 150 due to hardware revisions, and hardware prep for Door 183 for modified door hardware.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Seven (7) change orders for a total amount of \$1,683,537.09.

Project Initiation Date: October 25, 2022

Design Professional: Weir Boerner Allin Architecture

General Contractor: Roy Anderson Corporation

Phased Project Budget: \$89,802,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$103,500,000.00

8. **MSU – IHL 205-359A WISE CENTER – FARM ANIMAL HOSPITAL (BID PACKAGE L)**

**Approval Request #1: Construction Documents**

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

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 8, 2026

# EXHIBIT 1

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**Approval Request #2: Advertise**

Board staff approved request to advertise for receipt of bids.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 8, 2026

9. **MSU – IHL 205-359B WISE CENTER – NANCY FAIR LINK LAMINITIS RESEARCH CENTER**

**Approval Request #1: Construction Documents**

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

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 15, 2026

**Approval Request #2: Advertise**

Board staff approved request to advertise for receipt of bids.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 15, 2026

10. **MSU-IHL 405-002 JIM AND TOM DUFF CENTER**

**Approval Request: Change Order #13**

Board staff approved Change Order #13 in the amount of \$13,670.90 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of AnderCorp, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 20, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #13 includes the following: providing automatic door operators at openings 3055, 3000.1, 3011 and 3005, a credit for reconciliation of omitted work from ASI 15 which was not captured in previous change orders, and a credit for the contractor's share of third-party re-inspections.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Thirteen (13) change orders for a total amount of \$1,431,688.60.

Project Initiation Date: March 1, 2019

Design Professional: Dale Partners Architects, P.A.

General Contractor: AnderCorp, LLC

Total Project Budget: \$65,000,000.00

11. **MSU-IHL 413-003B – DORMAN HALL RENOVATIONS PHASE II**

**Approval Request: Award of Construction Contract**

Board staff approved the Award of Contract in the amount of \$13,438,850.00 to the apparent low bidder, Ethos Contracting Group, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, February 4, 2026

Project Initiation Date: February 18, 2021

Design Professional: JH&H Architects

General Contractor: Ethos Contracting Group, LLC

Phased Project Budget: \$15,941,362.00

Total Project Budget: \$44,141,362.00

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## MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

### 12. MVSU-GS 106-275 – ARPA INFRASTRUCTURE – WATER COLLECTION & CONVEYANCE

#### **Approval Request: Change Order #3 (Time-Only)**

Board staff approved Change Order #3 in the amount of \$0.00 and one hundred eighty-one (181) additional days to the contract of Don M. Barron Contractor, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 12, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #3 includes the following: the addition of one hundred eight-one (181) days to the contract time due to the contractor needing sufficient time to address deficiencies which were discovered during the course of the ongoing project.

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

#### **Approval Request: Change Order #4 (Credit)**

Board staff approved Change Order #4 in the credit amount of \$32,792.17 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Don M. Barron Contractor, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 16, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #4 includes the following: reduction of both labor and materials originally planned in the base bid, Alternates 1, 2 and 3 which were not needed, cleaning CCTV scope of gravity sewer mains, repairing cleanouts, cleaning the wet well at Pump Station 1, grates for grinder station channel at Pump Station 1, cured-in-place pipe liner (8”) with cleaning, additional 8” sewer line repair, lateral point repair, structural manhole repair, rehabilitating existing 4’ diameter manhole via liner, and removing existing ductile iron suction pumps in Pump Station 1.

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

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Four (4) change orders for a total credit amount of \$76,484.68.

Project Initiation Date: August 15, 2024

Design Professional: W.L. Burle Engineers, P.A.

General Contractor: Don M. Barron Contractor, Inc.

Total Project Budget: \$1,991,993.23

## UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

### 13. UM – IHL 207-468.1A ART, THEATRE & FILM DEPARTMENT FACILITIES (JAC SCENE SHOP & SOUND STAGE)

#### **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, January 27, 2026

Project Initiation Date: November 19, 2020

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

General Contractor: TBD

Phased Project Budget: \$19,000,000.00

Total Project Budget: \$35,938,912.00

## 14. **UM – IHL 207-507 GILLOM SPORTS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS**

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

Board staff approved the Schematic Design Documents as submitted by PryorMorrow PC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 22, 2026

Project Initiation Date: August 15, 2024

Design Professional: PryorMorrow PC

General Contractor: TBD

Total Project Budget: \$5,000,000.00

## 15. **UM – IHL 407-008.2 NW MECHANICAL PLANT (ELEC. PHASE II) – 13KV ELEC. DIST. IMPROVEMENTS PART B**

### **Approval Request #1: Construction Documents**

Board staff approved Construction Documents as submitted by Atwell and Gent, P.A.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 9, 2026

### **Approval Request #2: Advertise**

Board staff approved request to advertise for receipt of bids.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 9, 2026

## 16. **UM – IHL 407-014.1 NEW SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY (JONES HALL), PHASE I (YERBY ASBESTOS ABATEMENT)**

### **Approval Request #1: Construction Documents**

Board staff approved Phase I Construction Documents as submitted by JH&H Architects Planners Interiors, P.A.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 22, 2026

### **Approval Request #2: Advertise**

Board staff approved request to advertise for receipt of bids.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 22, 2026

## UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

## 17. **UMMC-IHL 209-576 – MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILDREN**

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

Board staff approved Change Order #4 in the amount of \$177,637.01 and twenty-nine (29) additional days to the contract of Mid-State Construction Company, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 12, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #4 includes the following: revisions to millwork in patient rooms, placement of the generator platform and crane to set the generator, fire-

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rated ceiling in the storage room per MS Department of Health requirements, replacing dining room storefronts with sheetrock and hollow metal frames until fire-rated wood doors can be delivered, additional CCTV locations throughout building, addition of wall protections at patient headwalls, light additions at the resident wings and fire lane changes. Change Order Justification: This change order was necessary due to recommendations by governmental agencies, errors and omissions in the plans and specifications, and user/owner requested modifications.

Total Project Change Orders and Amount: Four (4) change orders for a total amount of \$742,819.11.

Project Initiation Date: April 25, 2019

Design Professional: Eley / Barkley / Dale, a Joint Venture

General Contractor: Mid State Construction Company, Inc.

Total Project Budget: \$15,900,000.00

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

### **Approval Request: Change Order #23**

Board staff approved Change Order #23 in the amount of \$361,533.57 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Codaray Construction, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 16, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #23 includes the following: a credit for paint for sound booths, additional millwork infill panels behind spandrel glass, removing walls cabinets, refinish and paint walls in the ophthalmology exam rooms, adding fifteen (15) return air grilles in public lobbies, adding power and Unistrut support for ceiling-mounted light, additional booster pump and expansion tank, wall sink in the first floor soiled room, two (2) 3-way bypass controls valves to AHU 2 & 4, adding a sink in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor soiled room, adding nine (9) additional bollards around the oxygen yard, adding ACT ceilings in three rooms and a light in the storage room, adding a fan to provide cross ventilation in the Oxygen yard, and adding a water heater, pump, recirculating piping and insulation to the non-potable water system.

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

### **Approval Request: Change Order 24**

Board staff approved Change Order #24 in the amount of \$225,341.20 and zero (0) additional days to the contract of Codaray Construction, LLC.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 16, 2026

Change Order Description: Change Order #24 includes the following: semi-recessed PPE dispensers in the ASC, widening of doors between cast room and imaging area, adding a booster pump room, a credit for previously-planned pump, additional power and data on the first floor of the MOB, an additional hot water recirculating pump in the ASC, and removing two (2) overhead cabinets for refrigerators.

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: Twenty-Four (24) change orders for a total amount of \$6,055,561.23.

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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-GS 114-033 EXECUTIVE EDUCATION CENTER JOC (PHASE I)

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

Board staff approved the Phase I Award of Contract in the amount of \$281,000.00 to Paul Jackson & Son, Inc.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 15, 2026

Project Initiation Date: April 18, 2024

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

General Contractor: Paul Jackson & Son, Inc.

Phased Project Budget: \$320,340.00

Total Project Budget: \$4,800,000.00

### 20. USM – IHL 208-301.1A REED GREEN COLISEUM RENOVATION (UTILITY RELOCATION)

#### **Approval Request #1: Construction Documents**

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

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 28, 2026

#### **Approval Request #2: Advertise**

Board staff approved request to advertise for receipt of bids.

Approval Status & Date: Approved, January 28, 2026

# EXHIBIT 2

February 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 1/29/26) from the funds of the IHL System Office. (This statement, in the amount of \$1,500.00, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,500.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statement dated 12/18/25) from the funds of Alcorn State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$24.10, represents services and expenses in connection with an immigration/labor certification matter.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 24.10**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Walker Immigration (statements dated 1/15/26 and 1/15/26) from the funds of Delta State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$3,765.00 and \$3,000.00, represent services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 6,765.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statements dated 1/2/26 and 1/2/26) from the funds of Jackson State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$54.28 and \$60.01, represent services and expenses in connection with an immigration/labor certification matter.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 114.29**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Brunini, Grower, Grantham and Hewes, PLLC (statements dated 1/12/26 and 1/13/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$2,975.00 and \$350.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 3,325.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Copeland Cook Taylor & Bush, PA (statements dated 1/13/26 and 1/21/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$138.00 and \$9,177.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 9,315.00**

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Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statement dated 1/12/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$3,150.00, represents services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 3,150.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Lightfoot Franklin White LLC (statement dated 1/16/26) from the funds of Mississippi Valley State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$1,081.50, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,081.50**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Lightfoot Franklin White LLC (statement dated 1/16/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$1,081.50, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,081.50**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Mayo Mallette, PLLC (statement dated 1/14/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$915.34, represents services and expenses in connection with general legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 915.34**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statements dated 12/31/25, 12/31/25 and 1/2/26) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$539.00, \$2,650.00 and \$5,150.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 8,339.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statement dated 12/18/25) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (This statement, in the amount of \$15,552.75, represents services and expenses in connection with legal advice.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 15,552.75**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Ware|Immigration (statements dated 12/31/25, 1/12/26 and 1/15/26) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$539.00, \$2,805.00 and \$10,000.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with immigration/labor certification matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 13,344.00**

# EXHIBIT 2

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## 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 12/11/25) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$94.50, represents services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 94.50**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statement dated 12/23/25) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$1,351.00, represents services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,351.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Conley Rose, P.C. (statement dated 1/6/26) 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 1/8/26, 1/8/26, 1/8/26, 1/8/26, 1/8/26 and 1/8/26) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$656.00, \$125.00, \$2,240.50, \$2,436.50, \$197.50 and \$158.00, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 5,813.50**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Stites & Harbison, PLLC (statements dated 7/21/25, 7/21/25, 7/21/25, 7/21/25, 7/21/25 and 12/12/25) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (These statements, in the amounts of \$38.00, \$5,425.50, \$3,358.00, \$234.00, \$76.00 and \$4,098.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 13,229.50**

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Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Weatherly IP Solutions, LLC (statement dated 6/26/25) from the funds of Mississippi State University. (This statement, in the amount of \$1,630.00, represents services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 1,630.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 12/17/25, 12/17/25, 12/17/25 and 12/22/25) from the funds of the University of Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$474.50, \$923.00, \$912.50 and \$4,116.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 6,426.00**

Payment of legal fees for professional services rendered by Butler|Snow (statements dated 12/22/25 and 12/23/25) from the funds of the University of Southern Mississippi. (These statements, in the amounts of \$602.00 and \$1,660.00, respectively, represent services and expenses in connection with patents or intellectual property matters.)

**TOTAL DUE.....\$ 2,262.00**