

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

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

During Executive Session, the following matter was discussed:

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

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

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

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

The following Search Advisory Constituency members were present:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

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During Executive Session, the following matter was discussed:

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

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



President, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning



Commissioner, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning