

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING
January 30, 2013**

E IT REMEMBERED, That the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning of the State of Mississippi met in a special session at the Board Office in Jackson, Mississippi, at 8:00 a.m., and pursuant to notice in writing to each and every member of said Board, said date being at least five days prior to this January 30, 2013 meeting. At the above-named place there were present the following members to wit: Mr. H. Ed Blakeslee, Mrs. Karen L. Cummins (by phone), Dr. Ford Dye, Mr. Shane Hooper (by phone), Mr. Bob Owens, Mr. Hal Parker, Mr. Aubrey B. Patterson, Mr. Alan Perry, Ms. Christine Pickering, Ms. Robin J. Robinson, Dr. Douglas Rouse, and Mr. C.D. Smith. The following members of the USM Interview Search Advisory Committee were present: Ms. Rosemary Aultman, Mayor of Clinton, MS; Ms. Lou Ann Poynter, Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair of the University of Southern Mississippi Foundation; Mr. Kim Bradley, President of the Hattiesburg City Council; Dr. Mary Ann Adams, Professor, Division of Education and Psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Campus; Mr. Michael Miles, Director of Music at the University of Southern Mississippi; Ms. April Jordan, Operations Manager, iTech Administration at the University of Southern Mississippi; and Ms. Jazmyne Butler, Student Body President at the University of Southern Mississippi. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ed Blakeslee, President.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion by Trustee Patterson, with Trustees Cummins, Hooper and Perry absent and not voting, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine whether or not it should declare an Executive Session. On motion by Trustee Dye, seconded by Trustee Pickering, with Trustees Cummins and Perry absent and not voting and with Trustee Hooper participating by phone, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously **to go into Executive Session** for the reason reported to the public and stated in these minutes, as follows:

Discussion of personnel issues concerning the search for the next president of the University of Southern Mississippi.

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


The Board conducted final round interviews of three of the six candidates recommended by the Campus Search Advisory Committee. On motion by Trustee Perry, seconded by Trustee Rouse, with Trustees Cummins and Hooper participating by phone, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to choose Dr. Rodney Bennett as the preferred candidate for the University of Southern Mississippi presidential search. Dr. Bennett will participate in open interviews on the USM Gulf Coast and Hattiesburg campuses with various university and community constituency groups.

On motion by Trustee Perry, seconded by Trustee Robinson, with Trustees Cummins and Hooper participating by phone, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to return to Open Session.

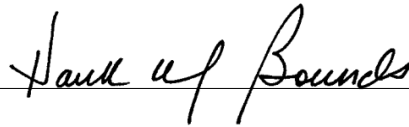
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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Trustee Dye, seconded by Trustee Pickering, with Trustees Cummins and Hooper participating by phone, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.



President, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning



Commissioner, Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning