

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING**

**March 4, 1991**

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, That the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning of the State of Mississippi met in special session in Jackson, Mississippi on Monday, March 4, 1991, at 1:00 p.m., for the purpose of addressing the financial management of Jackson State University. A notice in writing was mailed by certified letter with return receipt requested on February 27, 1991, to each and every member of said Board, said date being at least five days prior to this March 4, 1991. At the above named place there were present the following members to wit: Ms. Nan McGahey Baker, Mr. Frank O. Crosthwait, Jr., Mr. Will A. Hickman, Mr. J. Marlin Ivey, Mr. William M. Jones, Mr. James W. Luvenc, Dr. Cass Pennington, Mr. Sidney Rushing, Ms. Dianne P. Walton, Dr. Joe A. Haynes, and Mr. Bryce Griffis. Ms. Diane Martin Miller was absent. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Hickman and opened with prayer by Dr. Haynes.

**Executive Session**

On motion by Mr. Griffis, seconded by Mr. Jones, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to close the meeting to determine whether or not the Board should declare an Executive Session. On motion by Mr. Griffis, seconded by Mr. Jones, and unanimously passed, the Board voted not to go into Executive Session. President Hickman reopened the meeting and announced that the Board had determined that it would not go into Executive Session.

**Report by Dr. W. Ray Cleere, Commissioner**

Dr. W. Ray Cleere, Commissioner of Higher Education, reported on the current situation at Jackson State University.

After Dr. Cleere's report, Mr. Griffis made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Jones.

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, effective immediately, will assume through the Chief Financial Officer, direct responsibility for financial management of Jackson State University for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Chief Financial Officer of the university, with the assistance of the Board Staff, will carry out the specific directives of this Board. It is the intention of the Board that projected deficits be reduced to the lowest level possible.

Mr. Crosthwait amended Mr. Griffis' motion by adding the line "Monthly reports shall be made to the Board."

The Board then passed Mr. Crosthwait's amendment and Mr. Griffis' original motion, with Dr. Pennington voting against the motion and the amendment, with the final motion and amendment to read as follows:

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees, effective immediately, will assume through the Chief Financial Officer, direct responsibility for financial management of Jackson State University for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Chief Financial Officer of the university, with the assistance of the Board Staff, will carry out the specific directives of this Board. It is the intention of the Board that projected deficits be reduced to the lowest level possible. Monthly reports shall be made to the Board.

**Executive Session**

On motion by Mr. Rushing, seconded by Mr. Jones, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to close the meeting to determine whether or not the Board should declare an Executive Session. On motion by Mr. Rushing, seconded by Mr. Griffis, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at Jackson State University to include the future role of the president of the institution.

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President Hickman reopened the meeting and announced that the Board had determined to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at Jackson State University to include the future role of the president.

On motion by Mr. Rushing, seconded by Mr. Griffis, and unanimously passed, the Board voted to go out of Executive Session and return to open meeting. The President reopened the meeting and announced that no action was taken at the Executive Session.

**Examination of Institutions' Financial Condition**

Upon returning to open session, on motion by Mr. Crosthwait, seconded by Mr. Jones, and unanimously passed, it was

**RESOLVED**, that the Board hereby directs the Commissioner of Higher Education and his staff, and such other personnel as the Commissioner determines is needed, to examine each institution under the jurisdiction of the Board's authority in regard to its financial condition, activities and compliance with the law.

**Appearances Before The Board**

The following legislators were in attendance at the special meeting of the Board and were recognized by Mr. Hickman:

Senator Carl J. (Jack) Gordon, Jr., Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee

Senator Douglas (Doug) Anderson, Chairman  
Senate Universities and Colleges Committee

Representative George Flaggs, Jr.

Senator Carl J. Gordon, Jr., requested that the Legislature be apprised of any action taken by the Board with regard to Jackson State University.

Senator Douglas Anderson addressed the need for a timely resolution of the Jackson State University issue and the need to strive for positive public opinion.

Representative George Flaggs, Jr., offered the Board his assistance in resolving problems at Jackson State University.

**Recognitions**

Mr. Hickman recognized Dr. Ed Ranck, former Associate Director of the Institutions of Higher Learning. Dr. Ranck resigned this month to accept the position of Executive Director of the Department of Finance and Administration.

**Adjournment**

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

President, Board of Trustees of State Institutions  
of Higher Learning

Executive Secretary, Board of Trustees of State Institutions  
of Higher Learning

**EXHIBITS**

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**EXHIBIT 1** Official Notice of Special Meeting, March 4, 1991