Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board

3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211

June 20, 2016
3:00 p.m.

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES
June 1, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS
1. Approval of the FY 2018 Budget Request

   Exhibit 1: FY 2018 Budget Request

   Exhibit 2: FY 2018 Budget Narrative

INFORMATION ITEMS

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS IF NECESSARY

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION IF DETERMINED NECESSARY

ADJOURNMENT
MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board held its regular quarterly meeting on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Members of the media and public were invited to attend the meeting in Room 432 of the Education and Research Center, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, Mississippi, 39211.

The following Board members were in attendance:
- Lee Bush, MCCB appointee
- Mack Grubbs, Lt. Governor’s appointee
- Cynthia Melvin, MAICU appointee
- Al Rankins, IHL Institutional appointee
- C.D. Smith, IHL Board appointee
- Jim Turcotte, Governor’s appointee

The following members participated via teleconference:
- Bob Walker, MCCB Institutional appointee

The following members were unable to participate:
- Ben Burnett, MAICU appointee
- Sharon Ross, Governor’s appointee

Also in attendance were:
- Erika Berry, Policy Advisor, Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Caron Blanton, Director of Communications, IHL
- Carrie Cooper, Financial Aid Director, University of Mississippi Medical Center
- Kim Gallaspy, Director of Legislative Affairs, IHL
- Stephanie Ganucheau, Special Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General Universities and Colleges Division
- Senator Josh Harkins, Chairman, Senate Universities and Colleges Committee
- Meg Harris, Assistant Director of Student Financial Aid
- Renotta Jones, Program Administrator, IHL Office of Student Financial Aid
- Representative Nolan Mettetal, Chairman, House Universities and Colleges Committee
- Mark Rigsby, Producer, Mississippi Public Broadcasting
- Jennifer Rogers, Director of Student Financial Aid and Postsecondary Director
- Apyrll Washington, Program Administrator, IHL Office of Student Financial Aid

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jim Turcotte, Chairman.

MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Rankins, seconded by Mr. Bush, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting held on March 21, 2016.
MINUTES

INTRODUCTIONS

No guests were introduced.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

On motion by Mr. Grubbbs, seconded by Dr. Rankins, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve Regular Agenda Item #1: Approval of FY 2017 Award Budget.

1. Approval of FY 2017 Award Budget

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of a scaled award budget for the 2016-17 academic year, due to insufficient funds for Fiscal Year 2017 to award all students on all programs.

The 2016 Mississippi Legislature passed SB 2868, Appropriation; IHL – Student Financial Aid, which is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount Requested (MBR)</th>
<th>SB 2868</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Funds</td>
<td>$52,088,172</td>
<td>$38,752,077</td>
<td>-$13,336,095</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spending Authority - Collections</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
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<td>Spending Authority from Special Source</td>
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<td>$847,200</td>
<td>$132,200</td>
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<td>Additional Spending Authority</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1,243,068</td>
<td>$1,243,068</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$54,303,172</td>
<td>$42,342,345</td>
<td>-$11,960,827</td>
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Additional Spending Authority - Unavailable

TOTAL AVAILABLE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount Available</th>
<th>SB 2868</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$54,303,172</td>
<td>$41,099,277</td>
<td>-$13,203,895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The FY 2017 appropriation is $13.2 million or 24.3% below the amount requested in the Mississippi Budget Request (MBR), which was developed by the Office in June 2015.

Exhibit 1 – Page 13: FY 2017 Projections

Exhibit 1 is the proposed award budget.

- The blue column shows the original budget created for the MBR.
- The red column shows projections revised during the Legislative session. As actual applicant counts became available during the spring of 2016, the Office reduced the projected need by $2,802,750, to $51,500,422.
- The green column shows the proposed award budget.

Exhibit 2 – Page 14: Measures to Reduce Shortfall

Exhibit 2 shows the recommended measures needed to balance the budget. The exhibit includes the measure, the number of students impacted, the projected reduction, and the remaining shortfall.

According to guidance from the Office of the Attorney General, per Miss. Code Ann. § 37-106-14 (2), all undergraduate grants must be fully funded before any loans, even renewal loans.

a. As required by SB 2868, freeze the income threshold at $39,500 for HELP eligibility. The measure will require a change to the Rules.

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MINUTES

b. Clarify that all HELP recipients must demonstrate completion of the HELP Core Curriculum in high school. The measure will require a change to the Rules.

c. Reduce HELP eligibility from 10 terms to 8 terms. The measure will require a change to the Rules.

d. Per Miss. Code Ann. §37-106-79 (5), which requires specific appropriation by the Legislature, suspend all payments on the Mississippi Teacher Loan Repayment Program (MTLR).

e. Limit loans to renewal undergraduate students only.

f. Limit loans to renewal graduate students only.

g. Make no awards on the following programs: Counselor and School Administrator (CSA), Graduate Teacher (GTS), and Veterinary Medicine for Minorities (VMMP). Per Miss. Code Ann. § 37-106-47, the Board is authorized and empowered to operate the programs, but funding is not specified or required.

h. Make no Nursing Teacher Stipend awards. Per Miss. Code Ann. § 37-106-59, the law indicates that awards “shall” be made to undergraduate and graduate nursing students, but the additional stipends “may” be offered at the discretion of the Board.

i. Make no Health Care Professions awards. Miss. Code Ann. § 37-106-67 establishes the program and specifies recipients, but does not require funding.

j. Redefine full-time as 15 credit hours per term. The measure will require a change to the General Administration Rules and many program rules.

k. Reduce by half the award amounts for the State Medical Education Loan (MED), State Dental Education Loan (DENT) and Out-of-State Graduate and Professional Degree Loan (STSC). Per Miss. Code Ann. § 37-106-61, § 37-106-63, and § 37-106-65, the Board may determine the maximum annual award amounts.

Exhibit 3 – Page 15: Award Budget Comparisons
Exhibit 3 shows a comparison of the proposed award budget for 2016-17 and the actual awards made during 2015-16.

Recommendation:
The proposed award budget has been reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General. Board approval is recommended.

On motion by Dr. Rankins, seconded by Mr. Smith, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve Regular Agenda Items #2-5.

2. Approval of Updates to APA Part 615 – Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP) Rules and Regulations Regarding Completion of the Core Curriculum, the Income Threshold, the Definition of Full-Time Enrollment, and the Maximum Terms of Eligibility.

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of updates to APA Part 615 – Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP) Rules and Regulations. State law requires the Board to promulgate Rules and Regulations for administering the state-supported Student Financial Aid programs.

The specific requested revisions are as follows:


b. Section I.G.1. – Page 17: Freeze the income threshold.

c. Section II.A.2.e) and II.A.2.f) – Pages 18-19: Clarify that all students must complete the HELP core curriculum whether they first receive HELP as a freshman or sophomore.

d. Section II.A.5. – Page 19: Change definition of full-time enrollment.

e. Section III.B. – Page 20: Reduce maximum award length.
MINUTES

The Board previously approved APA Part 615 in March 2015.

Recommendation:
The recommended changes have been reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General. Board approval is recommended, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

3. Approval of Updates to APA Part 605 – General Administration Rules and Regulations Regarding Dependency Documentation and the Definition of Full-Time Enrollment.

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of updates to APA Part 605 – General Administration Rules and Regulations to add language related to the submission of dependency documents and to change the definition of full-time enrollment for undergraduate students from 12 credit hours per term to 15 credit hours per term. State law requires the Board to promulgate Rules and Regulations for administering the state-supported Student Financial Aid programs.

Exhibit 5 – Page 22: APA Part 605 – General Administration Rules and Regulations
The specific requested revisions are as follows:
   a. Section I.C.2. – Page 24: Add section on Dependency Documentation.
   b. Section II.D.2.b.(10) – Page 34: Update definition of “homeless”.
   c. Section II.D.3.a.(1)(a) – Page 34: Change the definition of full time.

The Board previously approved APA Part 605 in December 2015.

Recommendation:
The recommended changes have been reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General. Board approval is recommended, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

4. Approval of Updates to APA Part 613 – Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG) Rules and Regulations Regarding Cost of Attendance and Definition of Full-Time Enrollment.

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of updates to APA Part 613 – Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG) Rules and Regulations to clarify that awards cannot exceed Cost of Attendance and to change the definition of full-time enrollment for undergraduate students from 12 credit hours per term to 15 credit hours per term. State law requires the Board to promulgate Rules and Regulations for administering the state-supported Student Financial Aid programs.

Exhibit 6 – Page 45: APA Part 613 – Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG) Rules and Regulations
The Board previously approved APA Part 613 in March 2015.

Recommendation:
The recommended changes have been reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General. Board approval is recommended, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

5. Approval of Updates to All Undergraduate Program Rules and Regulations with References to Full-Time Enrollment

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of updates to all undergraduate program rules and regulations that include references to full-time enrollment. State law requires the Board to promulgate Rules and Regulations for administering the state-supported Student Financial Aid programs.

The only substantive change included in all rules is to change the definition of full-time enrollment for undergraduate students from 12 credit hours per term to 15 credit hours per term.
MINUTES

The requested change would apply to the following program Rules and Regulations in the following exhibits:

Exhibit 7 – Page 50: APA Part 611 – Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) Rules and Regulations

Exhibit 8 – Page 55: APA Part 617 – Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen (LAW) Rules and Regulations

Exhibit 9 – Page 60: APA Part 635 – Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TES) Rules and Regulations

Exhibit 10 – Page 70: APA Part 637 – William Winter Alternate Route Teacher Forgivable Loan (WWAR) Rules and Regulations


Exhibit 12 – Page 90: APA Part 651 – Health Care Professions Forgivable Loan (HCP) Rules and Regulations

Recommendation:
The recommended changes have been reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General. Board approval is recommended, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

Dr. Rankins nominated Mr. Smith as chairman. Mr. Bush motioned to close nominations and Dr. Rankins seconded the motion. All Board members voted to close the nominations. Mr. Smith accepted the nomination and Mr. Bush motioned for the Board to accept the nomination and vote. Mr. Grubbs seconded the motion. All Board members legally present and participating voted unanimously in favor of electing Mr. C.D. Smith as chairman.

6. Selection of Chairperson for 2016-17

According to APA Part 601, Chapter 2, Rule 2.1, Section III, the board shall elect from its membership a chairman. Dr. Jim Turcotte was elected as chairman in June 2015. The Board should elect a new chairperson to serve for fiscal/aid year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017.

INFORMATION AGENDA ITEMS

The Board received an update from Jennifer Rogers on Old Business.

7. Updates on Old Business

a. Presentation of Requested Data: Per request by Dr. Rankins, the Office has created a breakdown of loans by institution to determine the potential impact to each institution of limiting and/eliminating loans. Per request by Dr. Turcotte, the Office has created a breakdown of grants by institution to determine the potential impact to each institution of proration.

Exhibit 13 – Page 100: Distribution of Grants and Loans by Institution
MINUTES

b. Board Appointments: Dr. Ben Burnett has been reappointed by the Mississippi Association of Independent Colleges and Universities to serve a full four-year term beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2020 as the association's representative. Mr. Jim Gibson has been appointed by the Mississippi Community College Board to serve a four-year term beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2020 as the MCCB institutional appointee.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS IF NECESSARY

The Board did not consider any additional agenda items.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board did not consider any other business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION IF DETERMINED NECESSARY

The Board did not determine a need to enter into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Turcotte declared the meeting adjourned.

[Signature]
Director, Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board

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REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval of the FY 2018 Budget Request

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of the FY 2018 Budget Request. Board policy Part 601, Chapter 9, Rule 9.1 (IV) states, "Annually, the Board will review the annual legislative budget request for the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid and make a budget recommendation to the Agency."

Exhibit 1 – Page 9: FY 2018 Budget Request

Exhibit 2 – Page 11: FY 2018 Budget Narrative
## 1 - Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, Wages and Fringes</td>
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<td>$ 715,213</td>
<td>$ 9,281</td>
<td>$ 750,974</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>$ 8,000</td>
<td>$ 8,000</td>
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<td>$ 8,000</td>
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<td>Contractual Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commodities</td>
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<td>$ 10,000</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
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<td>$ 10,000</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Administration</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,253,932</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,263,213</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 9,281</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 1,328,974</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 65,761</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 2 - MTAG/MESEG and HELP

| MTAG | $ 24,383 | $ 14,628,555 | $ 22,276 | $ 13,433,151 | -2,007 | $ (1,195,404) | $ 24,383 | $ 14,628,600 | 2,007 | $ 1,195,449 |
| MESG | $ 2,504 | $ 6,050,888 | $ 2,449 | $ 5,902,331 | -55 | $ (148,567) | $ 2,504 | $ 6,050,900 | 55 | $ 148,569 |
| HELP | $ 2,644 | $ 15,159,142 | $ 2,955 | $ 16,910,452 | 211 | $ 1,751,310 | $ 3,280 | $ 19,988,300 | 425 | $ 3,077,848 |

**Total MTAG/MESEG and HELP**: $ 29,531 | $ 35,884,539 | $ 27,880 | $ 36,245,534 | -1,851 | $ 407,339 | $ 30,167 | $ 40,667,800 | 2,487 | $ 4,421,866 |

## 3 - Forgivable Loan and Repayment Programs

### Teacher Programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2017 Awards</th>
<th>FY 2017 Amount</th>
<th>Additional Awards</th>
<th>Additional Needs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GTS</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>$ 203,375</td>
<td>-88</td>
<td>$ (203,375)</td>
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<td>CSA</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$ 75,000</td>
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<td>$ (75,000)</td>
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<td>WWTS</td>
<td>277</td>
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<td>$ (627,334)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WWAR</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$ 12,000</td>
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<td>$ (12,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TNTP</td>
<td>47</td>
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<td>$ (718,694)</td>
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<td>CNAR</td>
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<td>CNDT</td>
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<td>TES and Alternate RTE. TES</td>
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<td>$ 602,883</td>
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<tr>
<td>MS Teaching Fellows Program</td>
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<td>0</td>
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</table>

### Nursing Programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>FY 2017 Awards</th>
<th>FY 2017 Amount</th>
<th>Additional Awards</th>
<th>Additional Needs</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NELB</td>
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<td>NELM</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>$ 400,156</td>
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<td>NELP</td>
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<tr>
<td>NELR</td>
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<td>$ 268,167</td>
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<td>$ (244,167)</td>
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<td>NERM</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>$ 52,000</td>
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<td>$ (20,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NTSP</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>$ 261,000</td>
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<td>$ (261,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLPL</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>$ 617,900</td>
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<td>$ 111,900</td>
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<td>$ 102,440</td>
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<td>$ (44,690)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MED</td>
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<td>$ (344,786)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Protection Social Worker</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Total Forgivable Loan/Repayment Programs**: $ 1,369 | $ 7,943,388 | $ 415 | $ 3,031,864 | -954 | $ (4,911,524) | $ 1,457 | $ 8,817,600 | 1,042 | $ 5,785,736 |
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<th>Public Management Intern</th>
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<th>206,917</th>
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<th>226,800</th>
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<th>9,534</th>
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<td>LAW</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>$ 217,265</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>GEAR UP Scholarships</td>
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<td>$ 82,668</td>
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<td>$ 47,500</td>
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<td>498</td>
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<td>500</td>
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<tr>
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<td>117</td>
<td>$ 554,366</td>
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<td>$ 93,315</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>$ 615,800</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$ 57,534</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL Loans, Scholarships &amp; Grants</td>
<td>31,017</td>
<td>$ 44,246,714</td>
<td>28,212</td>
<td>$ 35,836,064</td>
<td>-2,805</td>
<td>$ (4,401,389)</td>
<td>31,741</td>
<td>$ 50,301,700</td>
<td>3,529</td>
<td>$ 10,330,897</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL 31,017</td>
<td>$ 45,500,666</td>
<td>28,212</td>
<td>$ 41,099,277</td>
<td>-2,805</td>
<td>$ (4,401,389)</td>
<td>31,741</td>
<td>$ 51,430,174</td>
<td>3,529</td>
<td>$ 10,330,897</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Unrestricted General Funds | $ 37,855,077 | $ 38,752,077 | $ 49,541,174 |
| Restricted General Funds  | $ -          | $ -          | $ -          |
| Re-appropriation of Lapsing Funds | $ 900,000 | $ -          | $ (900,000) |
| Total General Funds       | $ 38,755,077 | $ 38,752,077 | $ (3,000) |

Special Funds

| Spending Authority - Investments | $ 257,834 | $ 341,000 | $ 83,166 |
| Spending Authority - Collections | $ 2,300,000 | $ 1,500,000 | $ (800,000) |
| Spending Authority - FY14 TES | $ 1,313,353 | $ - | $ - |
| Spending Authority - LAWS | $ -         | $ 132,200 | $ 100,000 |
| Spending Authority - Escalation | $ -         | $ 374,000 | $ 500,000 |
| Spending Authority - UNAVAILABLE | $ 5,419,781 | $ 1,243,068 | $ - |
| Total Special Funds | $ 9,291,008 | $ 3,590,288 | $ (5,700,740) |
| Carryover - Treasury Fund | $ -         | $ -         | $ -         |
| TOTAL SFA OPERATING BUDGET | $ 48,046,085 | $ 42,342,345 | $ (5,700,740) |

Special Funds Unavailable

| TOTAL AVAILABLE SFA BUDGET | $ 42,626,304 | $ 41,099,277 |

Deficit Appropriation/Request

| TOTAL APPROPRIATED SFA BUDGET | $ 46,626,304 | $ 41,099,277 | $ (5,527,027) |

Separately Appropriated Funds

| Ayers | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| Total Separately Appropriated Funds | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| TOTAL SFA BUDGET | $ 46,626,304 | $ 41,099,277 | $ (5,527,027) | $ 51,430,174 | $ 10,330,897 |

Exhibit 1 - 10
NARRATIVE
FY 2018 BUDGET REQUEST

State Student Financial Aid

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid (MOSFA) is the administering agency for all state-funded student financial aid programs. The office is guided by a two-fold public service mission to provide financial assistance to students in pursuit of educational and professional goals and to help the state fulfill workforce needs in specific service areas and achieve the goal of a more educated citizenry. The office seeks to build public awareness of the diverse financial resources available through ongoing communication with individuals, colleges and universities, secondary schools, governing boards, legislators, communities, and other constituency groups.

MOSFA works independently and in partnership with other college prep and planning organizations to build public awareness of the financial resources offered by the state. The office provides information through high school counselors, college nights, parent association meetings, college fairs, and publications. Due in part to these ongoing efforts, the anticipated rise in the cost of attendance, and the economic downturn, more families than ever before are expected to seek financial assistance for postsecondary education.

On behalf of the students and the state of Mississippi, MOSFA requests $51,430,174, which represents an increase of $9,087,829 or 21.5% over the original FY 2017 appropriated dollars. However, all appropriated dollars are not expected to be available for expenditure during FY 2017. Therefore, the FY 2018 request represents an increase of $10,330,897 or 25.1% over the total funds actually available for expenditure in FY 2017 at the time of budgeting. The FY 2018 request represents an increase of $10,789,097 or 27.8% in General Funds and a decrease of $1,701,268 or -47.4% in Special Funds.

1-Administration

I. Program Description: MOSFA is responsible for the comprehensive planning, management and evaluation processes required to administer the state’s many, diverse financial assistance programs. The office assesses and allocates resources, implements fiscal accountability measures, and annually evaluates all program components for compliance with statutes and legislative intent as well as for effectiveness in recruiting and retaining students in higher education in Mississippi.

II. Program Objective: MOSFA seeks to communicate the accomplishments, needs, and value of the state’s financial assistance programs to numerous and varied constituency groups; to implement effective management strategies; to be wise stewards of state resources; and to provide prompt, quality service.

III. Current program activities as supported by the funding in Columns 5-12 (FY 17 Estimated and FY 18 Increase/Decrease for continuations) of MBR-1-03 and designated Budget Unit Decisions columns of MBR-1-03-A:

(D) Additional Needs - $65,761: The additional funds are requested to provide 5% salary increases after several years without salary increases and to upgrade computer and technology systems critical to the Office’s daily workflow processes.
2-MTAG/MESG and HELP

I. Program Description: MOSFA is responsible for the comprehensive management, including budgeting, disbursement of funds and evaluation, of three (3) grant programs. In March of 1995, two (2) grant programs, the Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) and the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG), were created to assist Mississippi students who do not qualify for full Pell grants. In April of 1997, an additional grant program, the Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP), was created to provide need-based financial assistance, as determined by parental adjusted gross income.

II. Program Objective: Provide adequate resources to support the delivery of the three (3) grant programs and to ensure compliance with the appropriate state laws in delivering financial aid.

III. Current program activities as supported by the funding in Columns 5-12 (FY 17 Estimated and FY 18 Increase/Decrease for continuations) of MBR-1-03 and designated Budget Unit Decisions columns of MBR-1-03-A:

(D) Additional Needs - $4,421,866: The costs of MTAG and MESG are expected to decrease during FY 2017 as the state transitions from a definition of full-time enrollment as 12 hours per term to 15 hours per term. Some students are expected to lose their state aid eligibility for failure to enroll and complete full-time. However, the Office expects the loss of state aid to act as an incentive to encourage students to take more hours, and expects recipient numbers to rebound in FY18. The cost of HELP has increased dramatically over recent years as MOSFA has reached out to middle and high school counselors to make more students aware of the program. In addition, charges to HELP were enacted by the 2014 Legislature to simplify the application process beginning with the 2014-15 academic year and to raise the income eligibility threshold from $36,500 to $39,500 in the 2015-16 academic year. The income threshold was scheduled to increase again to $42,500 in the 2016-17 academic year, but the threshold was frozen at $39,500 by the Legislature in the FY17 SFA appropriation bill. This budget anticipates that the freeze will be released and the income threshold will increase to $42,500. The MTAG request is $14,628,600, which represents an increase of $1,195,449 over FY17, but is level with the actual FY16 award amount. The MESG request is $6,050,900, which represents an increase of $148,569 over FY17, but is level with the actual FY16 award amount. The HELP request is $19,988,300, which represents an increase of $3,077,848 over FY17.

3-FORGIVABLE LOAN AND REPAYMENT PROGRAMS

I. Program Description: MOSFA operates the following student financial aid teacher programs: Graduate Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (GTS), Counselor and School Administrator Forgivable Loan Program (CSA); William F. Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (WWTS) and William Winter Alternate Route Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (WWAR); Critical Needs Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (CNTP) and Critical Needs Alternate Route Teacher Forgivable Loan Program (CNAR); Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan
Program (CNDT); Mississippi Teacher Loan Repayment Program (MTLR); the Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholars Forgivable Loan Program (SREB), the Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TES) Program, Alternate Route Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan, and the Mississippi Teacher Fellows Program. MOSFA operates the following student financial aid nursing programs: Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Programs for baccalaureate, masters, and Ph.D. study (NELB, NELR, NELM, NERM, and NELP), and Nursing Teacher Stipends (NTSP). MOSFA operates the following student financial aid health/science related programs: Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan Program (SLPL); Southern Regional Education Board Forgivable Loan Program for optometry (SREB); Graduate and Professional Degree Forgivable Loan Program for study in chiropractic medicine, orthotics, prosthetics, or podiatrics (STSC); Medical and Dental Education Forgivable Loan Programs (MED and DENT); Health Care Professions Forgivable Loan Program (HCP); Veterinary Medicine for Minorities Forgivable Loan Program (VMMP); and Family Protection Specialist Social Worker Forgivable Loan Program (SWOR).

II. Program Objective: Student Financial aid programs have been developed:
   a. To meet demonstrated critical shortages in the fields of medicine, nursing, nursing education, physical and natural sciences, and teacher education;
   b. To attract, educate, and retain qualified teachers and medical personnel to serve the people of Mississippi;
   c. To insure that the best interest of Mississippi is served by providing students with financial assistance for programs of study not offered in regularly supported Mississippi institutions; and
   d. To manifest the belief that the continued growth and development of Mississippi requires improved levels of postsecondary educational attainment; and
   e. To meet the needs of specific student groups.

III. Current program activities as supported by the funding in Columns 5-12 (FY 17 Estimated and FY 18 Increase/Decrease for continuations) of MBR-1-03 and designated Budget Unit Decisions columns of MBR-1-03-A:
   (D) Additional Needs - $5,785,736: An overall increase in expenditures for the Forgivable Loan and Repayment Programs is expected. Increases and decreases are requested as follows for the following forgivable loan and repayment programs based on increases and decreases in demand and eligibility.

TEACHER PROGRAMS:

The Graduate Teacher Forgivable Loan (GTS) and Counselor and School Administrator Forgivable Loan (CSA) Programs support classroom teachers and administrators who seek graduate level education to improve their skills and abilities, desperately needed in Mississippi's public schools. Due to budget constraints, funding wasn’t available for GTS or CSA during FY17. The GTS request is $204,000, which represents an increase of $204,000 over FY17, but is level with the
actual FY16 award amount. The CSA request is $75,000, which represents an increase of $75,000 over FY17, but is level with the actual FY16 award amount.

The William Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan (WWTS) and William Winter Alternate Route Teacher Forgivable Loan (WWAR) Programs seek to relieve the state’s teacher shortage. The William Winter program is experiencing an overall decline in eligibility, beginning with the 2014-15 academic year, due to changes to the eligibility guidelines. When teacher licensure requirements changed in recent years to incorporate a higher GPA requirement, the William Winter guidelines were updated to reflect the stricter licensure requirements. Due to budget constraints, only renewal applicants were awarded during FY17. The WWTS request is $1,108,000, which represents an increase of $724,000 over FY17, but is level with the actual FY16 award amount. The WWAR request is $12,000, which represents an increase of $12,000 over FY17, but is level with the actual FY16 award amount.

The Critical Needs Teacher Forgivable Loan (CNTP) and Critical Needs Alternate Route Forgivable Loan (CNAR) Programs help eligible students willing to teach in critical geographic shortage areas or specific subject shortage areas. In 2014, the Legislature passed legislation to phase out the Critical Needs Teacher program. New awards were made for the last time in 2014-15. Renewal awards only will be made through 2016-17. Therefore, no funds are requested for CNTP or CNAR, which represents a decrease of $46,875 from FY17.

The Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Teacher Forgivable Loan (CNDT) funds are available to Mississippi teachers who are seeking a Class AA Educator’s License with a 203 Endorsement for Dyslexia Therapy. Due to budget constraints, only renewal applicants were awarded during FY17. The CNDT request is $200,000, which represents an increase of $130,000 over FY17, but is level with the actual FY16 award amount.

The Mississippi Teacher Loan Repayment Program (MTLR) funds are used to repay a portion of the undergraduate loans of eligible Mississippi teachers in exchange for their service or continued teaching service in Mississippi’s public schools. MTLR requires specific appropriation by the Legislature, and no appropriation was made during FY17; therefore no awards were made. The MTLR request is $600,000, which represents an increase of $600,000 over FY17.

The Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholars Forgivable Loan Program (SDSP) seeks to improve the success of minority students in Mississippi’s postsecondary institutions, since data shows that minority students are more likely to succeed in postsecondary education under the leadership and instruction of minority teachers and administrators. The Office is evaluating the effectiveness of the SDSP program and does not anticipate making any new awards on the program during the evaluation. No funds are requested for SDSP, which represents a decrease of 25,000 from FY17.
The Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan Program (TES) was established by the 2013 Legislature to make awards of up to $15,000 to students with a 28 ACT who commit to teach in a public school for five years following degree completion and licensure. A limited number of awards were first made in 2013-14, and the Legislature appropriated $1,500,000 for awards for 2014-15. The 2014 Legislature created the Alternate Route Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan program as an expansion of the existing TES program, but the expansion was not funded in FY15, FY16, or FY17. The purpose of the program is to provide funding for potential teachers to acquire alternate route teacher certification. Due to budget constraints, only renewal applicants were awarded TES during FY17. The combined TES and Alternate Route TES request is $750,000, which represents an increase of $600,000 over FY17.

The 2014 Legislature created the Mississippi Teaching Fellows Program to recruit high quality teachers into teacher prep programs in our state’s colleges and universities. The program, intended to launch in 2015-16, will eventually replace the Critical Needs Teacher program, which has been phased out. The program was not funded in FY16 or FY17. The first-year Mississippi Teaching Fellows request is $800,000.

NURSING PROGRAMS:

The Nursing Education Forgivable Loan Programs – Bachelor’s (NELB); Master’s (NELM); Ph.D./DNP (NELP); RN to BSN (NELR); and RN to MSN (NERM) funds assist the state’s efforts to recruit and retain nurses to fill the nursing shortage. Master’s and Ph.D. level nursing students will also have the education required to teach in nursing education programs, when current nurse educators leave the profession in mass, as anticipated over the coming years. Due to budget constraints, only renewal applicants were awarded during FY17. The NELB request is $1,136,000, which represents an increase of $672,000 over FY17. The NELM request is $476,000, which represents an increase of $296,000 over FY17. The NELP request is $130,000, which represents an increase of $95,000 over FY17. The NELR request is $300,000, which represents an increase of $276,000 over FY17. The NERM request is $68,000, which represents an increase of $36,000 over FY17.

The Nursing Teacher Stipend Forgivable Loan Program (NTSP) funds eligible Master’s and Ph.D. level nursing students in nursing education tracks who commit to serve as nurse educators upon completion of their education. Due to budget constraints, funding wasn’t available for NTSP during FY17. The NTSP request is $275,000, which represents an increase of $275,000 over FY17.

HEALTH/SCIENCE RELATED PROGRAMS:

The Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan Program (SLPL) was first created by the 2012 Legislature, but funding was only first made available for the 2014-15
academic year. SLPL funds are available to students seeking a first master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology, Communicative Disorders, or Communication Sciences and Disorders. The loan will be forgiven for recipients who serve as licensed speech-language pathologists in a Mississippi public or charter school for one year for each year of funding received. Due to budget constraints, only renewal applicants were awarded during FY17. The SLPL request is $70,000, which represents an increase of $56,000 over FY17, but is level with the actual FY16 award amount.

The Southern Regional Education Board Forgivable Loan Programs (SREB) awards students in out-of-state optometry programs contracted through the SREB Regional Contract Program. Mississippi currently contracts 11 seats per entering class, for a total of 44 contract seats each year. The cost of each contract seat increases annually. The contract seat cost was $17,800 per seat in FY17. The cost per seat in FY18 is $18,700. The SREB request is $822,000, which represents an increase of $93,000 over FY17.

The Graduate and Professional Degree Forgivable Loan Program (STSC) places students in out-of-state programs in chiropractic, orthotic, prosthetic, or podiatric programs which are not offered in Mississippi. Due to budget constraints, only renewal applicants were awarded during FY17. Also, during FY17, each individual award amount was reduced by half. The STSC request is $130,900, which represents an increase of $73,150 over FY17.

The State Family Medical Education Forgivable Loan (MED) and State Dental Education Forgivable Loan (DENT) Programs award family doctors and dentists who commit to practice in Mississippi after becoming licensed. Due to budget constraints, only renewal applicants were awarded during FY17. Also, during FY17, each individual award amount was reduced by half. The MED request is $710,800, which represents an increase of $414,361 over FY17. The DENT request is $909,100, which represents an increase of $641,100 over FY17.

The Health Care Professions Forgivable Loan Program (HCP) provides funds to students who agree to work in speech, physical, or occupational therapy at the state’s hospitals and medical facilities. Due to budget constraints, funding wasn’t available for HCP during FY17. The HCP request is $30,000, which represents an increase of $30,000 over FY17, but is level with the actual FY16 award amount.

The Veterinary Medicine Minority Forgivable Loan Program (VMMP) awards minorities who commit to practice veterinary medicine in Mississippi after becoming licensed. Due to budget constraints, funding wasn’t available for HCP during FY17. The Office is evaluating the effectiveness of the SDSP program and does not anticipate making any new awards on the program during the evaluation. No funds are requested for VMMP, which represents no change from FY17.

The Family Protection Specialist Social Worker Forgivable Loan Program (SWOR) makes awards to Department of Human Services employees who commit to work as
Family Protection Specialists for three years after becoming licensed social workers. No applicants requested funding for FY17. The **SWOR request is $10,000**, which represents an increase of $10,000 over FY17.

4. OTHER

I. Program Description: MOSFA operates the following student financial aid programs in other areas: Public Management Graduate Intern Program (PMGT) and Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship Program (LAW). MOSFA also operates the following programs, which are funded through special source funds for which MOSFA must request spending authority: GEAR UP Scholarships and Nissan Scholarships.

II. Program Objective: Student Financial aid programs have been developed:
   a. To manifest the belief that the continued growth and development of Mississippi requires improved levels of postsecondary educational attainment and
   b. To meet the needs of specific student groups.

III. Current program activities as supported by the funding in Columns 5-12 (FY 17 Estimated and FY 18 Increase/Decrease for continuations) of MBR-1-03 and designated Budget Unit Decisions columns of MBR-1-03-A: (D) Additional Needs - $57,534: An overall increase in expenditures for the Other programs is expected. Increases and decreases are requested as follows for the following programs based on increases and decreases in demand and eligibility.

The Public Management Graduate Internship Program (PMGT) provides internships in public management in the state. **No funds are requested for PMGT.**

The Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship Program (LAW) provides education to the dependents of deceased or disabled service men and women. The **LAW request is $226,800**, which represents an increase of $9,534 over FY17.

The GEAR UP Scholarship Program (GUMS) provides scholarships to Mississippi students who participated in the state GEAR UP program during the 7th through 12th grades. FY 2018 represents the third year of awards to the second cohort of GEAR UP students. The award amounts for GEAR UP increase each year of the student’s college career. Although the Office expects to make a similar number of awards, the dollar amount of each award will increase. The **GUMS request is $380,000**, which represents an increase of $47,500 over FY17.

The Nissan Scholarship Program (NISS) provides aid to students at public institutions who major in a field that will advance the automotive industry in Mississippi. The **NISS request is $9,000**, which represents an increase of $500 over FY17.