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Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board

3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, MS 39211

December 7, 2015
10:30 a.m.

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board held its regular quarterly meeting on Monday, December 7, 2015 at 10:30 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
- Sharon Ross, Governor’s appointee
- C.D. Smith, IHL Board appointee
- Jim Turcotte, Governor’s appointee

The following members participated via teleconference:

The following members were unable to participate:
- Ben Burnett, MAICU appointee
- Al Rankins, IHL Institutional appointee
- Bob Walker, MCCB Institutional appointee

Also in attendance were:
- Stephanie Ganucheau, Special Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General Universities and Colleges Division
- Meg Harris, Assistant Director of Student Financial Aid
- Corey Hicks, Loan Repayment Specialist, IHL Office of Student Financial Aid
- Renotta Jones, Administrative Assistant, IHL Office of Student Financial Aid
- Andrea Mayfield, Executive Director, Mississippi Community College Board
- Representative Nolan Mettetal, Chairman, House Universities and Colleges Committee
- Jennifer Rogers, Director of Student Financial Aid and Postsecondary Director
- Apyrrl Washington, Program Administrator, IHL Office of Student Financial Aid

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jim Turcotte, Chairman.
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On motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Bush, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the regular meeting held on September 21, 2015.

INTRODUCTIONS

Representative Nolan Mettetal, Chairman of the House Universities and Colleges Committee, and Dr. Andrea Mayfield, Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board, were introduced.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

On motion by Mr. Grubbs, seconded by Ms. Ross, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve Regular Agenda Item 1: Approval of Updates to APA Part 605 – General Administration Rules and Regulations Sections I.C.2.c. and II.D.6.b. Regarding Transcripts, Grade Reports, and GPA Calculation.

1. Approval of Updates to APA Part 605 – General Administration Rules and Regulations Sections I.C.2.c. and II.D.6.b. Regarding Transcripts, Grade Reports, and GPA Calculation

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of updates to APA Part 605 – General Administration Rules and Regulations, Sections I.C.2.c. and II.D.6.b. State law requires the Board to file its administrative policies, procedures, and rules with the Secretary of State’s Office for inclusion in the Administrative Code.

The Board previously approved updates to APA Part 605 in September 2015. The Office is requesting that the Board update the policy regarding submission of transcripts, Grade Reports, and GPA calculation. The request follows action by the Board taken in its September meeting to require all institutions to report the overall cumulative GPA in the Grade Report, discontinue the acceptance of transcripts, and accept only what is reported by the attending institution in the Grade Report.

The complete APA Part 605 with revisions is included as Exhibit 1. The specific requested revisions are as follows:

APA Part 605 – General Administration Rules and Regulations
Section I.C.2.c. -

Official College Transcript(s) - The official college transcript should include all courses attempted, completed and in progress, and the overall cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale.

Section II.D.6.b.

For continuing college students, the Office accepts the overall cumulative college GPA, as calculated and certified by the registrar at the end of each term or year. The college GPA is reported directly to the Office at the end of each term by the college in a Grade Report. A student should not submit a transcript at the end of each term unless requested by the Office. The Office will not calculate GPAs, but will accept the GPA calculated by the college.
Recommendation:
Board approval is recommended, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

On motion by Mr. Bush, seconded by Mr. Grubbs, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve Regular Agenda Item 2: Approval of Updates to APA Part 617 – Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship (LAW) Rules and Regulations Section III. Regarding Housing Award Allowance.

2. Approval of Updates to APA Part 617 – Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship (LAW) Rules and Regulations Section III. Regarding Housing Award Allowance

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of updates to APA Part 617 – Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship (LAW) Rules and Regulations, Section III. State law requires the Board to file its administrative policies, procedures, and rules with the Secretary of State’s Office for inclusion in the Administrative Code.

The Board previously approved updates to APA Part 617 in March 2015. The Office is requesting that the Board clarify its policy regarding the allowable award amount for housing. Some institutions offer a variety of room types for students living on campus. Room types include standard, traditional, suite, and deluxe. The room cost varies by type. The Office wishes to clarify that the LAW award will pay the average of standard, double-occupancy room rates at each institution.

The complete APA Part 617 with revisions is included as Exhibit 2. The specific requested revisions are as follows:

APA Part 617 – Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship (LAW) Rules and Regulations, Section III.

A. The award shall cover the cost of tuition, including required fees, and the average cost of standard, double-occupancy campus housing for eight (8) semesters at any state-supported college or university within the state of Mississippi.

B. A “required fee” is any fee charged to every full-time, undergraduate student, regardless of classification or major.

C. The award for students not living on campus should include an amount equal to the average cost of standard campus housing for double-occupancy rooms.

Recommendation:
Board approval is recommended, contingent upon completion of the Administrative Procedures Act process.

INFORMATION AGENDA ITEMS

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

2. Update on Old Business

a. Approval of Updates to APA Parts 605 and 675: Updates to APA Part 675 approved by the Board during the September 21, 2015 meeting were filed with the Secretary of State’s Office on November 19, 2015 according to the APA process. The final rules will be adopted 30 days
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following the initial filing, assuming no comments are received. Updates to the APA Part 605 were held in anticipation of the need for additional changes. All approved changes will be filed following the Board’s December meeting.

b. **Approval of General Legislation Requests:** The General Legislation Requests approved by the Board in September were submitted to IHL Legislative Liaison Kim Gallaspy. Sponsors are being sought for legislation to authorize the MS Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board to promulgate Rules and Regulations of the Southern Regional Education Board Regional Contract Forgivable Loan Program. A recent announcement by the U.S. Department of Education to move the start date of the 2017-18 FAFSA from January 1, 2017 to October 1, 2016 will provide students with an additional three months to complete HELP applications, thus reducing the need to request that the deadline be moved back. Board members may be called upon during the Legislative Session to speak with legislators about funding and other matters.

c. **Update on Redesigning State Financial Aid Project:**

1) As part of its commitment to provide Technical Assistance to the state of Mississippi, Education Commission of the States (ECS) is currently writing a discussion document which considers the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG), the Higher Education Legislative Plan Grant (HELP) and the Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) in light of the four ECS redesign principles for state-funded financial aid programs. The document is intended to initiate discussions within and among the Education Achievement Council, Institutions of Higher Learning, Mississippi Community College Board, and the Postsecondary Board. Where appropriate, the work may also be shared with a broader group of stakeholders within the state. A first draft of the discussion document will be available for the state team to review in December 2015. Pending feedback and revisions, a final version will be ready in the spring of 2016.

2) Dr. Jim Fridley, professor at the University of Washington, is in the process of developing a web-based Affordability Interactive Model (AIM) that reflects the various higher education financing components by income level. The model elucidates the interconnectivity between federal and state financial aid policies as well as state higher education funding and tuition decisions. As policymakers explore changes to state higher education funding and financial aid policies, the model demonstrates the impact on students and families. Ultimately, the model will show affordability from the perspective of a family’s ability to cover the cost of attendance. Dr. Fridley’s work is being financed by a generous grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education. In light of the work the Board is doing to prepare recommendations to redesign the state’s aid programs, Dr. Fridley has agreed to include Mississippi as a pilot state.

d. **Committees:** An invitation was circulated on October 20, 2015 to invite Board members to participate on a Strategic Planning Committee to focus on education and communication with external constituents and the development of Board-supported recommendations for redesigning state financial aid. Committee work will begin in earnest in January 2016 with the start of the Legislative Session.

Jennifer Rogers presented a draft of the 2015 Annual Report of State-Supported Student Financial Aid.

3. **Presentation of Draft Annual Report**

Jennifer Rogers, Director of Student Financial Aid and Director of the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board, will present a draft of the 2015 Annual Report of the State Supported Student Financial Aid Programs.
Jennifer Rogers reported on the state of the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid.

4. Director’s Report

Jennifer Rogers, Director of Student Financial Aid and Director of the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board, will deliver a report on the accomplishments of the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid during calendar year 2015 and alert the Board to challenges and opportunities anticipated during 2016.

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.

Jennifer Rogers
Director, Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board