

# MISSISSIPPI POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD



IHL Executive Offices, Room 218  
3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

January 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

## MINUTES

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board held a regular meeting on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Members of the media and public were invited to attend the meeting in Room 218 of the Education and Research Center, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, Mississippi, 39211.

The following members participated in person:

- Debbi Braswell, MAICU appointee
- Ann Lamar, IHL Board appointee
- Sharon Ross, Governor's appointee
- Jim Turcotte, Governor's appointee and Chairman

The following member participated via teleconference:

- Ben Burnett, MAICU appointee
- Mark Keenum, IHL Institutional appointee
- Louanne Langston, MCCB Institutional appointee

The following members did not participate:

- Lee Bush, MCCB appointee
- Mack Grubbs, Lt. Governor's appointee

Also in attendance were:

- Meg Harris, Assistant Director of Operations, Student Financial Aid
- Audra Kimble, Mississippi Community College Board
- Jennifer Rogers, Director of Student Financial Aid and Postsecondary Director
- Apryll Washington, Assistant Director Policy and Planning, Student Financial Aid

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Turcotte.

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On motion by Dr. Burnett and seconded by Ms. Lamar, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the board meeting held on September 17, 2019 as originally drafted.

### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

#### **1. Review and Approve the 2019 Annual Report of the State-Supported Student Financial Aid Programs for Submission to the Mississippi Legislature**

Ms. Rogers presented an overview of the 2019 Annual Report. A calculation error was discovered on pages 18 and 19 of the draft report. On motion by Ms. Lamar, seconded by Ms. Ross, all Board members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the 2019 Annual Report of the State-Supported Student Financial Aid Programs for submission to the Mississippi Legislature after corrections were made to pages 18 and 19.

Report Highlights:

Appropriation/Budget/Expenses/Funding Disparity (pp. 10-11):

- \$39.66 million appropriated in General Funds (up \$2.0 million or 5.31%)
- \$2.61 million appropriated in Spending Authority
- \$42.27 million original appropriation and operating budget
- \$1.5 million deficit appropriation of spending authority
- \$43.77 million final appropriation and operating budget
- \$42.19 million expended on awards
- \$1.25 million expended on administration (2.9% of budget); breakdown: \$700K salaries/benefits, \$200K IHL; \$300K application build, cybersecurity, ECSI, etc.
- \$43.6 million total expended
- \$173K unspent from *current year* collections; available for carryover
- Funding disparity of \$5.1 million

Awards (p. 5-7):

- 25,952 state-supported awards (up 5.09%), totaling \$42.2 million (up 11.21%) (p. 7)
- Average award amount \$1,626, up \$89 from prior year due to growth of HELP

Recipients (p. 8-9):

- 25,467 individual recipients (up 1,280 students or 5.29%)
- Every county represented
- 91% Dependent; 9% Independent
- 41% Male; 59% Female
- 96% aged 16-24
- 20% self-identify as African American; 72% as Caucasian
- 33% earn below \$48K; 50% earn below \$75K; 50% earn over \$75K

Breakdown of Awards by Institution and Type (Exec. Summary; pp. 6-7; and pp. 12-13):

- 58% of awards, 74% of funds to 4-yr publics; 33% of awards, 15% of funds to 2-yr publics; 9% of awards, 9% of funds to privates
- 98% Grants; 2% Loans
- 98% Undergraduate; 2% Graduate

Loan Repayment (pp. 18-24)

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- 3,017 accounts under management (7% accounts in school/grace; 7% service; 14% money; 58% default; 14% closed)
- \$1.46 million collected
- Overall default rate is 10% (same as last year)

Summary: The Office requests approval to submit the 2019 Annual Report of State-Supported Student Financial Aid Programs to the Legislature.

### 2. Discuss the Use of ACT Superscores

Ms. Rogers provided an update to the Board regarding recent changes announced by ACT, including the upcoming use of “Superscores”. The Board discussed the matter but took no action. As soon as it is available, Ms. Rogers will share additional data with the Board regarding the cost of changing grant rules to accept ACT Superscores in lieu of ACT Composite scores from a single test.

In September 2020 ACT will begin reporting Superscores for test takers who have taken more than one administration of the ACT or have retaken subject sections of the ACT. IHL is considering changing the IHL Admission Policy from using ACT Composite scores to ACT Superscores. Using 2017 data, ACT said the overall national average increased by 0.5 from 20.8 to 21.3 when using superscores. Using 2017 Mississippi data, the increase was greater (see below). Additional analysis is being conducted using scores from the last eight years. The Board will need to consider whether to change program rules to accept ACT Superscores in lieu of ACT Composite scores from a single test date.

| TEST DATE                 | ENGLISH SCORE | MATH SCORE | READING SCORE | SCIENCE SCORE | COMPOSITE SCORE |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| April                     | 17            | 18         | 19            | 21            | 19              |
| June                      | 19            | 19         | 20            | 22            | 20              |
| September Section Retests | 21            | 20         |               |               |                 |
| TEST DATE                 | BEST ENGLISH  | BEST MATH  | BEST READING  | BEST SCIENCE  | SUPERSCORE      |
| Combined                  | 21            | 20         | 20            | 22            | <b>21</b>       |

#### **ACT Superscoring**

- Superscoring allows students to send colleges a super composite score which utilizes highest individual section scores across multiple test attempts.
- Benefits: best test results when applying for admissions and scholarships and highest composite report included

#### **Expanding ACT Access in Mississippi**

- In 2017, about 12,000 MS students took the ACT only once
- Students taking ACT 2+ times had first-to-final score increases of +0.8
- Superscoring score gain potential could expand eligible MS student population (admissions and scholarships)
  - Twice tested: +0.9
  - Three times tested: +1.4
- Total fee waivers will be four (currently two)
- One waiver used per test event (either a full ACT battery test or test event with as many as three section retests per waiver)

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### **3. Discuss Schedule for Strategic Planning Meetings**

Ms. Rogers reminded the Board about recent discussions regarding the need to conduct strategic planning meetings. Ms. Rogers will work with Chairman Turcotte to identify dates in February, March, and April for a series of three meetings. In the first meeting, the Board will discuss the background of state financial aid, the general programs, and the budget. In the second meeting, the Board will discuss the state loan programs. In the final meeting the Board will discuss the state grant programs and develop recommendations for the full Board. All Board members are welcome and encouraged to participate in the strategic planning meetings.

### **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS IF NECESSARY**

The Board did not consider any additional agenda items.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION IF DETERMINED NECESSARY**

On motion by Dr. Turcotte, seconded by Ms. Lamar, all Board members legally present and participating voted unanimously to close the meeting to determine whether or not it should declare an Executive Session.

On motion by Ms. Lamar, seconded by Ms. Ross, all Board members legally present and participating voted unanimously to go into Executive Session for the reasons reported to the public and state in these minutes, as follows:

Discussion of the personnel matter of Jennifer Rogers' annual performance evaluation.

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

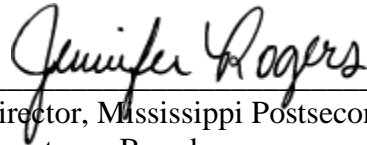
Prior to the January meeting, Dr. Al Rankins, Commissioner of Higher Education, asked Chairman Turcotte to assist with the annual performance evaluation of the director of student financial aid due to the close working relationship between the director and the Board. The Board discussed the Commissioner's request. On motion by Ann Lamar, seconded by Sharon Ross, all Board members legally present and participating voted unanimously to adopt Chairman Turcotte's plan to select two Board members to serve with him to conduct the evaluation using the forms and general process utilized by IHL.

On motion by Ann Lamar, seconded by Ben Burnett, all Board members 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, Dr. Turcotte declared the meeting adjourned.



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Director, Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial  
Assistance Board