

# MISSISSIPPI POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD



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

April 18, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Teleconference: 1-888-822-7517, Access code: 2791682#  
Zoom: <https://itsmsgov.zoom.us/j/82196379431>

## MINUTES

**BE IT REMEMBERED**, that the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board held a regular meeting on Monday, April 18, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Members of the Board participated in the meeting in person and remotely via Zoom or teleconference. 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 member(s) participated in person:

- Barney Daly, Lt. Governor's appointee
- Sharon Ross, Governor's appointee
- Jim Turcotte, Governor's appointee and Chairman
- Diane Watson, MCCB appointee

The following member(s) participated via Zoom or teleconference:

- Ben Burnett, MAICU appointee
- Tyrone Jackson, MCCB institutional appointee
- Mark Keenum, IHL institutional appointee

The following member(s) did not participate:

- Debbi Braswell, MAICU appointee
- Steven Cunningham, IHL Board appointee

The following members of the Board's Advisory Committee participated remotely:

- Terry Bland, Advisory Committee of Aid Directors, Itawamba Community College
- Isabelle Higbee, Advisory Committee of Aid Directors, Millsaps
- Laura Diven-Brown, Advisory Committee of Aid Directors, University of Mississippi
- Garry Jones, Advisory Committee of Aid Directors, East MS Community College
- Nicole Patrick, Advisory Committee of Aid Directors, MS University for Women

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- Letherio Ziegler, Advisory Committee of Aid Directors, MS Valley State University

Also in attendance either in person or remotely were:

- Meg Harris, Assistant Director of Operations, Student Financial Aid
- Jennifer Rogers, Director of Student Financial Aid and Postsecondary Board Director
- Apryll Washington, Assistant Director of Policy and Planning, Student Financial Aid
- Frances West, Office and Program Assistant, Student Financial Aid
- Melissa Temple, Director of Nursing, IHL Office of Academic and Student Affairs
- Audra Dean, Mississippi Community College Board
- Rachel De Vaughan, Mississippi Community College Board
- Stacy Sneed, Woodward Hines Education Foundation, Get 2 College Program
- Molly Minta, Reporter, *Mississippi Today*
- Michael Deuser, Education Strategy Group
- Anna Schilling, Education Strategy Group

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. by Chairman Turcotte.

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On motion by Mark Keenum and seconded by Barney Daly, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the board meeting held on January 12, 2022, as originally drafted.

## ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

**Item 1:** Ms. Rogers presented an update on FY 2022 awards and budget. No action was taken.

### **1. Update on FY 2022 Awards and Budget**

#### Summary:

As expected, the FY 2022 appropriation was adequate to fully fund the undergraduate grant programs. For the first time in several years, the Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid did not request additional funds mid-year through a deficit appropriation to award state-supported grants.

The Office did request and receive additional spending authority in the amount of \$3,500,000 to administer the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Summer Grant Program. Authority was appropriated through SB 3055. Chart 1 on page 9 includes details of the FY 2022 appropriation.

#### Recommendation:

No action is required.

**Item 2:** Ms. Rogers presented the FY 2023 SFA appropriation and requested approval of the allocation of funds. The Board discussed the possibility of saving collection dollars for a "rainy day" instead of obligating the funds for forgivable loans but ultimately decided to obligate the

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funds. On motion by Sharon Ross, seconded by Barney Daly, all Board members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the proposed appropriation allocation.

### 2. **Presentation of FY 2023 Appropriation and Approval of Appropriation Allocation**

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid presents the Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriation, and requests approval of the appropriation allocation for Aid Year 2023.

#### Summary:

Each year in June, the Board approves the Office’s annual budget request, or MBR, for the subsequent fiscal year. Because of the nature of financial aid, the actual fiscal needs of the Office may vary substantially between the time the budget is requested in June and the following spring when legislators are setting budgets and making appropriations for the subsequent fiscal year beginning July 1. For this reason, the Office often submits a revised request to the Legislature near the end of the session.

Chart 1 on page 9 includes details of the FY 2022 appropriation, the original FY 2023 MBR, the revised FY 2023 request, and the FY 2023 appropriation. In the official budget request submitted June 2021, the office requested \$53,061,307 in General Funds and \$2,610,000 in Spending Authority. In March 2022, the Office submitted a revised request of \$48,459,681 in General Funds and \$7,850,000 in Spending Authority based on actual AY 2022 awards and AY 2023 applications.

The 2022 Mississippi Legislature passed *SB 3009, Appropriation; IHL – Student Financial Aid*. As shown in Chart 1 on page 10, SFA will receive \$50,631,667 in General Funds and \$9,500,000 in Spending Authority/Special Funds.

The General Fund appropriation is about \$2.2 million *more* than we requested in our reduced budget request, and the total appropriation is about \$3.8 million *more* than our reduced budget request. It is also \$9.7 million more than the original FY 2022 appropriation (\$3.5 million more in General Funds) and about \$6.2 million more than the final FY 2022 appropriation.

#### Chart 1:

<b>FY 2023 Appropriation</b>						
	<b>FY 22 Appropriation</b>	<b>MBR</b>	<b>Revised FY23 Request</b>	<b>FY23 Appropriation</b>	<b>(+/-) FY22</b>	<b>(+/-) Revised Request</b>
Total General Funds	\$ 47,107,957	\$ 53,061,307	\$ 48,459,681	\$ 50,631,667	\$ 3,523,710	\$ 2,171,986
Total Special Funds	\$ 3,336,000	\$ 2,610,000	\$ 7,850,000	\$ 9,500,000	\$ 6,164,000	\$ 1,650,000
<b>Original Appropriation</b>	<b>\$50,443,957</b>	<b>\$55,671,307</b>	<b>\$56,309,681</b>	<b>\$60,131,667</b>	<b>\$ 9,687,710</b>	<b>\$3,821,986</b>
Deficit General Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Def. Special Funds	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (3,500,000)	\$ -
<b>Deficit Appropriation</b>	<b>\$ 3,500,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$(3,500,000)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>FINAL APPROPRIATION</b>	<b>\$53,943,957</b>	<b>\$55,671,307</b>	<b>\$56,309,681</b>	<b>\$60,131,667</b>	<b>\$ 6,187,710</b>	<b>\$3,821,986</b>

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### Allocation:

*Miss. Code Ann. § 37-106-14 (2)* requires the Board to award grants first and limit loans on a first-come, first-served basis with preference for renewals only if funding is sufficient. The appropriation is adequate to award all grants projected at this time as well as most loans. The appropriation bill provides specific appropriation for certain programs as follows:

- SREB Regional Contract Program (SREB):  
*Section 4. It is the intention of the Legislature that...the Board...shall expend...an amount not exceeding the funding necessary, contingent upon the availability of qualified applicants, for nine (9) new entering optometry students and the number of returning optometry students who received funding under the program during the preceding school year.*
- Law Enforcement Officers and Firemen Scholarship (LAW):  
*Section 5. It is the intention of the Legislature that priority shall be given and funds shall be first allocated to all students eligible for financial aid under the provisions of Section 37-106-39, Mississippi Code of 1972.*
- Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan (SLPL):  
*Section 10. Of the funds appropriated in Section 1, an amount not to exceed Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) is provided for the Speech-Language Pathologists Loan Forgiveness Program....*
- Winter-Reed Teacher Loan Repayment Program (WRTR):  
*Section 12. Of the funds appropriated in Section 2, Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) shall be derived from funds in the Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31 Mississippi Code of 1972. This amount shall be used for the William F. Winter and Jack Reed, Sr. Teacher Loan Repayment Program established in HB 1179, 2021 Regular Session.*
- NEW: Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship:  
*Of the funds appropriated in Section 2 of this act, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) shall be derived from funds in the Education Enhancement Fund deposited pursuant to Sections 27-65-75 and 27-67-31 Mississippi Code of 1972. This amount shall be used for the Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship Program Act established in HB 1313, 2022 Regular Session.*

Chart 2 on page 11 shows the FY 2023 Proposed Allocation. The FY 2022 Actual Awards and Expenditures represent the actual amounts expended or anticipated for expenditure for the current year. The FY 2023 Projected Awards and Amounts represent the proposed allocation of awards and costs. The FY 2023 Appropriated Amounts represent the actual appropriations. The final column represents the unneeded or unavailable amount of the appropriation (the difference between the previous two columns).

The proposed allocations are as follows:

- Fund administrative budgets with a personnel increase for a new position and cost of living raises.
- Fully fund grant budgets (MTAG, MESG, and HELP).
- Award 9 new contract seats and all renewals for SREB, as required in Section 4.
- Award the maximum \$70,000 in funding for SLPL, as allowed in Section 10.
- Award the remaining forgivable loans up to approximately \$2.5 million.
- Award all eligible LAW applicants, as required in Section 5.
- Award the Nissan Scholarship (NISS) and GEER Sumer Grant Programs, which are funded separately with spending authority.

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- Although funded at \$1 million for FY 2023, the FAITH statute requires the first awards to be made in AY 2023-24.
- Award 150 new and 150 renewal teachers through WRTR, as required in Section 12. Although funded at \$2 million for FY 2023, expenditures will not exceed \$1,350,000.

In addition to General Funds, the proposed allocation utilizes \$2.5 million from collections. The appropriation allowed for nearly \$3 million to be expended from collections, but about \$500,000 of the allowable amount will not be available at the beginning of the fiscal year. If actual awards exceed projections, the Office will have the ability to spend additional dollars collected over the course of FY 2023.

### Recommendation:

Board staff recommends approval of this item.

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Chart 2:

<b>FY 2023 Allocation</b>						
<b>Program</b>	<b>FY22 Actual Awards</b>	<b>FY22 Actual Expenditures</b>	<b>FY23 Projected Awards</b>	<b>FY23 Projected Amounts</b>	<b>FY23 Appropriated Amounts</b>	<b>Unavailable/Unneeded</b>
Salaries, Wages and Fringes		\$ 710,000		\$ 803,462	\$ 803,462	\$ -
Travel		\$ 900		\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -
Contractual Service		\$ 419,200		\$ 536,040	\$ 536,040	\$ -
Commodities		\$ 1,500		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Equipment		\$ 4,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
<b>Total Administration</b>		<b>\$ 1,135,600</b>		<b>\$ 1,367,502</b>	<b>\$ 1,367,502</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
MTAG	17,062	\$ 9,461,254	17,562	\$ 10,098,150	\$ 10,098,150	\$ -
MESG	3,482	\$ 7,897,085	3,782	\$ 8,604,050	\$ 8,604,050	\$ -
HELP	4,296	\$ 28,154,751	4,496	\$ 30,346,665	\$ 30,346,665	\$ -
<b>Total MTAG/MESG and HELP</b>	<b>24,840</b>	<b>\$ 45,513,090</b>	<b>25,840</b>	<b>\$ 49,048,865</b>	<b>\$ 49,048,865</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Teacher Programs:						
CNDT (Graduate)	0	\$ -	10	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -
Nursing Programs:						
NELB	0	\$ -	240	\$ 960,000	\$ 960,000	\$ -
NELM (Graduate)	0	\$ -	44	\$ 176,000	\$ 176,000	\$ -
NELP (Graduate)	0	\$ -	16	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000	\$ -
NELR	0	\$ -	80	\$ 320,000	\$ 320,000	\$ -
NERM (Graduate)	0	\$ -	16	\$ 64,000	\$ 64,000	\$ -
NTSP (Graduate)	0	\$ -	16	\$ 160,000	\$ 160,000	\$ -
Health-Related Programs:						
SLPL (Graduate)	0		5	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ -
SREB (Graduate)	33	\$ 633,600	34	\$ 652,800	\$ 652,800	\$ -
<b>Total Forgivable Loan Programs</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>\$ 633,600</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>\$ 2,542,800</b>	<b>\$ 2,542,800</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
NEW GEER Summer Grant	3000	\$ 3,500,000	3,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -
NEW FAITH Scholarship	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
LAW	8	\$ 93,256	15	\$ 172,500	\$ 172,500	\$ -
Nissan	2	\$ 19,440	1	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Winter-Reed Loan Repayment	150	\$ 455,000	300	\$ 1,350,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 650,000
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>3160</b>	<b>\$ 4,067,696</b>	<b>3,316</b>	<b>\$ 5,032,500</b>	<b>\$ 6,682,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,650,000</b>
<b>Total Loans, Schols &amp; Grants</b>	<b>28,033</b>	<b>\$ 50,214,386</b>	<b>29,617</b>	<b>\$ 56,624,165</b>	<b>\$ 58,274,165</b>	<b>\$ 1,650,000</b>
<b>TOTAL SFA ALLOCATION</b>	<b>28,033</b>	<b>\$ 51,349,986</b>	<b>29,617</b>	<b>\$ 57,991,667</b>	<b>\$ 59,641,667</b>	<b>\$ 1,650,000</b>
<b>Total General Funds</b>		<b>\$ 47,107,957</b>		<b>\$ 50,631,667</b>	<b>\$ 50,631,667</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
SA - Nissan		\$ 19,440		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -
SA - Collections		\$ 1,277,086		\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,990,000	\$ 490,000
SA - LAW funds		\$ 39,474		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SA - GEER		\$ -		\$ 3,500,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ -
SA - FAITH		\$ -		\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
SA - Winter-Reed		\$ 2,000,000		\$ 1,350,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 650,000
<b>Total Special Funds/Spend Auth.</b>		<b>\$ 3,336,000</b>		<b>\$ 7,360,000</b>	<b>\$ 9,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,140,000</b>
<b>TOTAL SFA APPROPRIATION</b>		<b>\$ 50,443,957</b>		<b>\$ 57,991,667</b>	<b>\$ 60,131,667</b>	<b>\$ 2,140,000</b>

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**Item 3:** Ms. Rogers presented an update on the 2022 Legislative Session. No action was taken.

### **3. 2022 Legislative Session Update**

#### Summary:

- S.B. 3055: Appropriations; Additional Appropriations for Various State Agencies
- S.B. 3009: Appropriations; IHL – Student Financial Aid
- H.B. 1313: Representative Bill Kinkade Fostering Access and Inspiring True Hope (FAITH) Scholarship Program Act; Create
- H.B. 1005: Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Education Incentive Program; Create
- H.B. 1521: Appropriation; IHL – Funding Nursing and Respiratory Therapy Education Incentive Program

#### Recommendation:

No action is required.

**Item 4:** Ms. Rogers introduced Frances West, the new Office and Program Assistant in the Office of Student Financial Aid. Ms. Rogers also noted that letters would be mailed this week to request new or renewal appointments for the expiring terms of Steven Cunningham and Barney Daly. Dr. Turcotte informed the Board that he would be reaching out for assistance in performing Ms. Rogers' annual performance evaluation. No action was taken.

### **4. Updates and Announcements**

New Hire

Board Member Appointments

## **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS IF NECESSARY**

The Board did not consider any additional agenda items.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION IF DETERMINED NECESSARY**

The Board did not consider the need to enter Executive Session.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion by Dr. Turcotte, seconded by Sharon Ross, the meeting adjourned.

  
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Director, Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial  
Assistance Board