

MISSISSIPPI POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BOARD



IHL Executive Offices, Room 432
3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211

December 16, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

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September 19, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes2

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approval of the 2016 Annual Report of the State-Supported Student Financial Aid Programs15

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OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION IF DETERMINED NECESSARY

ADJOURNMENT

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BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board held its regular quarterly meeting on Monday, September 19, 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
- Jim Gibson, MCCB Institutional appointee
- Al Rankins, IHL Institutional appointee
- Sharon Ross, Governor's appointee
- Jim Turcotte, Governor's appointee

The following members participated via teleconference:

- Ben Burnett, MAICU appointee
- Cynthia Melvin, MAICU appointee
- C.D. Smith, IHL Board appointee

The following member was unable to participate:

- Mack Grubbs, Lt. Governor's appointee

Also in attendance were:

- Ericka Berry, Policy Advisor, Office of the Lieutenant Governor
- Senator David Blount
- Stephanie Ganuchau, Special Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General Universities and Colleges Division
- Ashley Grooming, *Mississippi Today*
- Senator Josh Harkins, Chairman, Senate Universities and Colleges Committee
- Meg Harris, Assistant Director of Student Financial Aid, IHL Office of Student Financial Aid
- Corey Hicks, Loan Repayment Specialist, IHL Office of Student Financial Aid
- Renotta Jones, Program Administrator, IHL Office of Student Financial Aid
- Arnold Kelly, Office of the Speaker of the House
- Audra Kimble, Mississippi Community College Board
- Representative Nolan Mettetal, Chairman, House Universities and Colleges Committee
- Shirley Mitchell, Financial Aid Advisor, IHL Office of Student Financial Aid
- Jennifer Rogers, Director Student Financial Aid and Postsecondary Board Director
- Holly Savorgnan, Mississippi Community College Board
- Stacy Walker, UMMC Financial Aid and MASFAA President

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Dr. Jim Turcotte, Past-Chair.

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On motion by Mr. Bush, seconded by Ms. Ross, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on July 18, 2016.

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INTRODUCTIONS

No guests were introduced.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

On motion by Mr. Bush, seconded by Mr. Gibson, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve Regular Agenda Item #1: Approve Administrative Updates to Rules and Regulations.

1. Approve Administrative Updates to Rules and Regulations

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of updates to various Rules and Regulations. The updates requested herein are administrative in nature and are requested to provide clarification, consistency, or alignment of rule with practice. 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.

- a. Update SAT score references to add the "New SAT" concordance scores. The "New SAT" was first offered by the College Board in early 2016. Scores for the "New SAT" are substantially different, so the College Board provided a concordance table for all scores. According to the concordance table, "New SAT" scores are equivalent to the following ACT scores:

New SAT Minimum Score	ACT Composite
1350	29
1310	28
1060	21
1020	20
810	15

- i. Exhibit 3: APA Part 611 – Mississippi Resident Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG), Sections I.C.1-4. and II.A.3.a)-d).
- ii. Exhibit 4: APA Part 613 – Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG), Sections I.C.1-2. and II.A.3.a),b),d).
- iii. Exhibit 5: APA Part 615 – Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students Scholarship (HELP), Sections I.F.3. and II.A.2.c).
- iv. Exhibit 6: APA Part 635 – Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TES), Sections I.D. and II.A.2.
- v. Exhibit 7: APA Part 639 – William Winter Teacher Forgivable Loan (WWTS), Sections I.D. and II.A.3.
- b. Replace "loan/scholarship" references with "forgivable loan" references. The Board approved the replacement of all "loan/scholarship" references with "forgivable loan" references in March 2015. The following replacements were not previously made.
- i. Exhibit 1: APA Part 601 – Authority and Responsibilities, Rule 4.3
- ii. Exhibit 2: APA Part 605 – General Administration Rules and Regulations, Section III.B.
- iii. Exhibit 5: APA Part 615 – Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students Scholarship (HELP) Rules and Regulations, Section III.E.
- iv. Exhibit 6: APA Part 635 – Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TES) Rules and Regulations, Section VI.D.2.

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- c. Update references to Cost of Attendance. In June 2016, the Board clarified that state aid cannot be awarded in excess of Cost of Attendance per *Miss. Code Ann.* § 37-106-14(2). The following clarifications were not previously made.
 - i. Exhibit 1: APA Part 601 – Authority and Responsibilities, Rule 8.3
 - ii. Exhibit 2: APA Part 605 – General Administration Rules and Regulations, Section III.F.
- d. Add references to “electronic grade verification” when referencing “transcripts”. Institutions may now complete an online form to verify the cumulative GPA for students attending their institution. “Electronic Grade Verification” will be accepted in lieu of a transcript.
 - i. Exhibit 8: APA Part 651 – Health Care Professions Forgivable Loan (HCP) Rules and Regulations, Section II.A.3.
 - ii. Exhibit 10: APA Part 671 – State Dental Education Forgivable Loan (DENT) Rules and Regulations, Section II.A.3.
 - iii. Exhibit 11: APA Part 673 – State Medical Education Forgivable Loan (MED) Rules and Regulations, Section II.A.3.
 - iv. Exhibit 13: APA Part 675 – Graduate and Professional Degree Forgivable Loan (STSC) Rules and Regulations, Section II.A.3.
 - v. Exhibit 14: APA Part 677 – Veterinary Medicine for Minorities Forgivable Loan (VMMP) Rules and Regulations, Section II.A.3.

Recommendation:

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

On motion by Mr. Bush, seconded by Mr. Gibson, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve Regular Agenda Item #2: Approve Updates to APA Part 605 – General Administration Rules and Regulations.

2. Approve Updates to APA Part 605 – General Administration Rules and Regulations

The complete Rules and Regulations with revisions are included as Exhibit 2. The specific requested updates are as follows:

- a. Change application begin date to October 1 in Section I.B.1. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will open for the first time on October 1, rather than January 1. The State Aid Application has been updated to open on October 1 as well.
- b. Clarify that the National ACT reference includes state-wide administration in Section II.D.7. The National ACT is now administered to all high school juniors across the state on scheduled week-days.
- c. Add “Electronic Grade Verification” to “Merit Documentation” in Sections I.C.3. and II.E.2. Institutions may now complete an online form to verify the cumulative GPA for students attending their institution. “Electronic Grade Verification” should be added to the list of acceptable documents.
- d. Update the Appeal Process in Section II.E.3. The Appeal Process has been updated in response to the number of appeals received following the full-time enrollment definition change.

Recommendation:

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

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On motion by Mr. Rankins, seconded by Ms. Ross, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve Regular Agenda Item #3: Approve Updates to APA Part 615 – Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP) Rules and Regulations.

3. Approve Updates to APA Part 615 – Higher Education Legislative Plan for Needy Students (HELP) Rules and Regulations

The complete Rules and Regulations with revisions are included as Exhibit 5. The specific requested updates are as follows:

- a. Add Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TES) to the list of teacher education programs in Section III.E. Students cannot receive any combination of aid programs that includes two or more aid programs that both provide full tuition benefits.
- b. Add the definition of “family” in Section I.G. The definition of family appeared in the statute, but was not previously included in the rules.
- c. Clarify language regarding loss of award in Section IV.C. The previous wording was often misunderstood by families. The rule has not changed, but the wording has been updated to offer clarification.

Recommendation:

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

On motion by Mr. Bush, seconded by Dr. Burnett, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve Regular Agenda Item #4: Approve Update to APA Part 667 – Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Forgivable Loan (CNDT) Rules and Regulations.

4. Approve Update to APA Part 667 – Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Forgivable Loan (CNDT) Rules and Regulations

The complete Rules and Regulations with revisions are included as Exhibit 9.

Applicants for the Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Forgivable Loan (CNDT) graduate program are expected to have completed the service or repayment obligation for any undergraduate state forgivable loan program prior to receiving CNDT. The Teacher Education Scholars Forgivable Loan (TES) was not previously included in the list of undergraduate teacher education forgivable loan programs in Section III.E.

Recommendation:

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

On motion by Mr. Bush, seconded by Ms. Ross, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve Regular Agenda Item #5: Approve APA Part 674 – SREB Regional Contract Forgivable Loan (SREB) Rules and Regulations.

5. Approve APA Part 674 - SREB Regional Contract Forgivable Loan (SREB) Rules and Regulations

The complete Rules and Regulations with revisions are included as Exhibit 12.

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The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid requests approval of APA Part 674 – Southern Regional Education Board Regional Contract Forgivable Loan (SREB) Rules and Regulations. The Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) previously held authority for the program. Authority was moved from the IHL Board to the Postsecondary Board during the 2016 Legislative Session. State law now requires the Postsecondary Board to promulgate the Rules and Regulations.

The SREB Regional Contract Forgivable Loan program (SREB) makes awards available to students seeking an Optometry degree at an approved out-of-state school in exchange for employment in Optometry in the State of Mississippi. The program, originally created in 1942, is administered by the Office in partnership with the Southern Regional Education Board or SREB to include multiple disciplines. As degree programs have been created in the state, the program has been limited and now offers contract seats for optometry only, because Mississippi does not offer a Doctor of Optometry program in the state. SREB contracts with other states to reserve “seats” for Mississippi residents. The state pays a contracted price to SREB for each seat. The contract price (\$17,800/seat) also covers some portion of the tuition. However, depending upon the school, the student may still be required to pay additional tuition and/or fees. SREB is a loan. The loan will be forgiven for recipients who serve as licensed doctors of optometry in Mississippi for one year for each year of funding received. Loan recipients who choose not to fulfill the service obligation will be required to repay the loan in full with a penalty of 5% and interest.

Recommendation:

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

On motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Gibson, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve Regular Agenda Item 6A to approve general legislation requests to repeal certain requests with the exception that the Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy program will be discussed further with legislators and with the schools of education to determine if changes should be made to the repayment terms or if other changes are needed.

6. Approve General Legislation Requests for 2017 Legislative Session

The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid seeks approval to submit two requests for General Legislation for sponsorship and consideration during the 2017 Legislative Session.

The Strategic Planning Committee of the Board generally supports the request outlined in Agenda Item 6.a. However, the list of programs to include in the request is presented here for further discussion by the full Board.

a. Reference Title: Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance; repeal certain programs

Purpose:

To repeal small, ineffective, outdated, or misplaced state-supported Student Financial Aid programs.

Reason for Request:

The State of Mississippi authorizes 37 different student financial aid programs, but only 3 programs account for 76% of the funds awarded to students each year. The following programs are small, ineffective, or should be administered by a different agency. Repealing the following programs would decrease the number of programs offered, thereby simplifying administration of all programs. Repealing the programs would potentially reduce the SFA budget by about \$1.7 million and would also save in administrative costs and human resources.

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Program Name	Code Section	Year Created	5-Year Average Annual Program Cost	5-Year Average Number of Awards	2015-16 Program Cost	2015-16 Number of Awards
Southeast Asia POW/MIA Grant	§ 37-106-41	1972	Last Awarded 1996			
Public Management Graduate Intern Grant (PMGT)	§ 37-106-43	1982	\$ 13,600	5	\$ -	0
Assistant Teacher Forgivable Loan	§ 37-106-35	1996	Never Awarded			
State Medical Education Forgivable Loan (MED)	§ 37-106-61	1991	\$ 406,072	18	\$ 611,058	25
State Dental Education Forgivable Loan (DENT)	§ 37-106-63	1991	\$ 440,492	19	\$ 815,384	32
Health Care Professions Forgivable Loan (HCP – UG/G)	§ 37-106-67	2001	\$ 14,900	7	\$ 30,000	11
Family Protection Specialist Social Worker Forgivable Loan (SWOR)	§ 37-106-69	2007	\$ 4,762	1	\$ -	0
Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Forgivable Loan (CNDT)	§ 37-106-71	2012	\$ 132,821	30	\$ 141,827	35
Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan (SLPL)	§ 37-106-73	2013	\$ 66,701	8	\$ 70,000	8
Graduate and Professional Degree Forgivable Loan (STSC)	§ 37-106-65	1942	\$ 60,962	6	\$ 102,440	7
			\$ 1,140,309	93	\$ 1,770,709	118

The **Southeast Asia POW/MIA Grant** was created in 1972 to assist the children of POW/MIA servicemen of the Vietnam War. No awards have been made since 1996.

The **Public Management Graduate Intern Grant (PMGT)** was created in 1982. According to the statute, all agencies that utilize interns are to pay the intern grants from their own agency budgets. Over time, internships have been paid out of the SFA budget. Due to funding shortfalls, no internships have been awarded in the past two years.

The **Assistant Teacher Forgivable Loan** was created in 1996. The program has never been funded and no awards have ever been made.

The **State Medical Education Forgivable Loan (MED)** was created in 1991 to create an incentive for students to become primary care physicians and practice in rural areas of the state. The program remained in existence following the creation of the Rural Physicians Scholarship program, although the programs serve nearly the same purpose and the same students. The program only makes awards to students at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. After discussion with the Financial Aid Office at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, the Office and UMMC believe the university is better positioned to administer such a program, because the university knows its medical students, their financial needs, and the gaps in their aid packages. The following chart shows the award and repayment history of the program since 1999. After a student completes the service obligation, the Office does not have the resources needed to track the student's movement throughout their career. The university could track recipients.

Awarded Since 1999	86	
Repaid with Service	24	27.9%
Repaid with Money	11	12.8%
Repaid with Service/Money	1	1.2%
In School, Grace, Deferment	42	48.8%
In Service Repayment	3	3.5%
In Monetary Repayment	2	2.3%
Delinquent or In Default	3	3.5%
		100.0%
Pre-1999 Recipients Under Management	16	

The **State Dental Education Forgivable Loan (DENT)** was also created in 1991 to create an incentive for students to become general dentists and practice in rural areas of the state. The program

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only makes awards to students at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. As with MED, the Office and UMMC believe the university is better positioned to administer such a program, because the university knows its dental students, their financial needs, and the gaps in their aid packages. The following chart shows the award and repayment history of the program since 1999. After a student completes the service obligation, the Office does not have the resources needed to track the student's movement throughout their career. The university could track recipients.

Awarded Since 1999	81	
Repaid with Service	35	43.2%
Repaid with Money	7	8.6%
Repaid with Service/Money	3	3.7%
In School, Grace, Deferment	31	38.3%
In Service Repayment	3	3.7%
In Monetary Repayment	1	1.2%
Delinquent or In Default	1	1.2%
		100.0%
Pre-1999 Recipients Under Management	2	

The **Graduate and Professional Degree Forgivable Loan (STSC)** was created in 1942. The program was created to provide financial assistance for Mississippi students to pursue graduate degrees at out-of-state schools, when the degree is not offered in Mississippi. The eligible programs include chiropractic medicine, prosthetics, orthotics, and podiatric medicine. The program carries one of the highest default rates of all state forgivable loan programs as well as one of the highest rates of students who repay the loan with money rather than service. The following chart shows the award and repayment history of the program since 1999.

Awarded Since 1999	78	
Repaid with Service	31	39.7%
Repaid with Money	11	14.1%
Repaid with Service/Money	7	9.0%
In School, Grace, Deferment	9	11.5%
In Service Repayment	2	2.6%
In Monetary Repayment	3	3.8%
Delinquent or In Default	15	19.2%
		100.0%
Pre-1999 Recipients Under Management	15	

The **Health Care Professions Forgivable Loan (HCP)** was created in 2001 to create an incentive for students to choose employment in a state hospital. Undergraduate students majoring in speech pathology and psychology can receive \$1,500/year, and graduate students majoring in Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy can receive \$3,000/year. In exchange, the student agrees to work in a state hospital for one year for each year of loan received. The program carries one of the highest default rates of all state forgivable loan programs as well as one of the highest rates of students who repay the loan with money rather than service. The following chart shows the award and repayment history of the program since 1999.

Recipients Awarded Since 1999	97	
Repaid with Service	12	12.4%
Repaid with Money	49	50.5%

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Repaid with Service/Money	9	9.3%
In School, Grace, Deferment	14	14.4%
In Service Repayment	1	1.0%
In Monetary Repayment	1	1.0%
Delinquent or In Default	11	11.3%
		100.0%
Pre-1999 Recipients Under Management	0	

The **Family Protection Specialist Social Worker Forgivable Loan (SWOR)** was created in 2007, but was first funded in 2013. The program has awarded only one student since its inception. The program is extremely limited in scope, requiring an applicant to be currently employed by the Department of Human Services to establish eligibility. The Department of Human Services is better positioned to administer such a program, because the agency knows its employees and their educational needs. The following chart shows the award and repayment history of the program since 1999.

Awarded Since 1999	1	
Repaid with Service	0	0.0%
Repaid with Money	0	0.0%
Repaid with Service/Money	0	0.0%
In School, Grace, Deferment	1	100.0%
In Service Repayment	0	0.0%
In Monetary Repayment	0	0.0%
Delinquent or In Default	0	0.0%
		100.0%
Pre-1999 Recipients Under Management	0	

The **Critical Needs Dyslexia Therapy Forgivable Loan (CNDT)** was created in 2012. While the Office supports the intent of the program, the Office is concerned that the program cannot fulfill its intended purpose and is unintentionally positioning recipients for costly loan repayment. Loan and scholarship programs are typically created as an incentive to encourage students to enter a certain major or career path that is otherwise less attractive or costlier than an alternative. Dyslexia therapy has become an extremely popular graduate field. Dyslexia Therapy education programs in the state are experiencing wait lists and are expanding to admit more students. Students do not need encouragement to enter the field. Students are also eager to find employment in schools. Unfortunately, schools and districts do not have the funding needed to employ the therapists as full-time therapists. Therefore, students who receive CNDT are struggling to find appropriate employment that meets the repayment criteria. Students who receive CNDT money but do not find full-time employment in a Mississippi public school or district will be required to repay the loan in full, plus a 5% penalty, and interest on the combined principal and penalty. State funding would perhaps be better purposed as a set-aside for schools and districts to hire dyslexia therapists. The following chart shows the award and repayment history of the program since 1999.

Awarded Since 1999	41	
Repaid with Service	3	7.3%
Repaid with Money	0	0.0%
Repaid with Service/Money	0	0.0%
In School, Grace, Deferment	35	85.4%
In Service Repayment	1	2.4%

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In Monetary Repayment	2	4.9%
Delinquent or In Default	0	0.0%
		100.0%
Pre-1999 Recipients Under Management	0	

The **Speech-Language Pathologist Forgivable Loan (SLPL)** was created in 2013. As with CNDT, the program was created to encourage speech-language pathologists to pursue employment in Mississippi public schools. Unfortunately, a similar problem exists with SLPL that exists with CNDT. The full-time positions are not widely available in the schools once students graduate. Students who receive SLPL money but do not find full-time employment in a Mississippi public school or district will be required to repay the loan in full, plus a 5% penalty, and interest on the combined penalty and interest.

Awarded Since 1999	9	
Repaid with Service	0	0.0%
Repaid with Money	0	0.0%
Repaid with Service/Money	0	0.0%
In School, Grace, Deferment	9	100.0%
In Service Repayment	0	0.0%
In Monetary Repayment	0	0.0%
Delinquent or In Default	0	0.0%
		100.0%
Pre-1999 Recipients Under Management	0	

Suggested Legislation:

§ 37-106-41. Scholarships for children of prisoners of war or missing in action in Southeast Asia

...

This section shall stand repealed effective July 1, 2017.

§ 37-106-43. Mississippi Public Management Graduate Intern Program

...

This section shall stand repealed effective July 1, 2017.

§ 37-106-35. Assistant teacher forgivable loan program

...

This section shall stand repealed effective July 1, 2017.

§ 37-106-61. State medical forgivable loan program

...

(2) The board shall establish, by rule and regulation, the maximum annual award which may be made under this program at an amount not to exceed the cost of tuition and other expenses, and shall establish the maximum number of awards which may be made not to exceed the length of time required to complete the degree requirements and internship or residency. Individuals shall not be eligible to receive awards for the first time in this program after the 2016-17 academic year.

...

This section shall stand repealed effective July 1, 2020.

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§ 37-106-63. State dental forgivable loan program

...

(2) The board shall establish, by rule and regulation, the maximum annual award which may be made under this program at an amount not to exceed the cost of tuition and other expenses, and shall establish the maximum number of awards, which may be made not to exceed the length of time required to complete the degree requirements. Individuals shall not be eligible to receive awards for the first time in this program after the 2016-17 academic year.

...

This section shall stand repealed effective July 1, 2020.

§ 37-106-65. Out-of-state graduate and professional school forgivable loan program

The board, under such rules and regulations as it shall determine may provide forgivable loans for instruction in graduate and professional schools for qualified students, who are residents of Mississippi, in institutions outside the state boundaries, when such instruction is not available for them in the regularly supported Mississippi institutions of higher learning. The board shall, by its rules and regulations, determine the qualifications of such students as may be aided by this section, and the decision by the board as to the qualifications of such students shall be final. Subject to the availability of funding, the board shall provide forgivable loans for such graduate and professional instruction at a cost to students, not exceeding the cost, as estimated by the board, of such instruction, if it were available at a state supported institution of higher learning in the State of Mississippi. Individuals shall not be eligible to receive awards for the first time in this program after the 2016-17 academic year. Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as those outlined in Section 37-106-53.

This section shall stand repealed effective July 1, 2020.

§ 37-106-67. Health care professionals forgivable loan program

(1) There is established a health care professions' forgivable loan program. It is the intent of the Legislature that persons declaring an intention to work at certain state health institutions as nurses, nurse practitioners, speech pathologists, psychologists, occupational therapists and physical therapists shall be eligible for a loan for the purpose of acquiring an education in such professions. Individuals shall not be eligible to receive awards for the first time in this program after the 2016-17 academic year. The board shall enter into contracts with applicants, providing that such loans may be discharged by working as a health care professional in a state health institution, as defined in this section. Repayment and conversion terms shall be the same as those outlined in Section 37-106-53.

...

This section shall stand repealed effective July 1, 2020.

§ 37-106-69. Family protection specialist social worker forgivable loan program

(1) There is established a forgivable loan program to encourage family protection workers employed by the Department of Human Services to obtain the college education necessary to become licensed as a social worker, master social worker or certified social worker and become a family protection specialist for the department.

This section shall stand repealed effective July 1, 2017.

§ 37-106-71. Mississippi Dyslexia Education Forgivable Loan Program

...

(2) The receipt of a forgivable loan under the program shall be solely limited to those students who are enrolled in or who have been accepted for enrollment into a master's degree program of study for dyslexia therapy at any public or private institution of higher learning within the State of Mississippi at

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the time an application for a forgivable loan is filed with the board. Individuals shall not be eligible to receive awards for the first time in this program after the 2016-17 academic year.

...

This section shall stand repealed effective July 1, 2020.

§ 37-106-73. Speech-Language Pathologists Forgivable Loan Program

(1) There is established a Speech-Language Pathologists Forgivable Loan Program. It is the intent of the Legislature that persons declaring an intention to work in an accredited public school (K-12), including a charter school, located in the State of Mississippi as a speech-language pathologist shall be eligible for a loan for the purpose of acquiring a master's level education in such profession. The board shall enter into contracts with applicants, providing that such loans may be discharged by working as a master's level speech-language pathologist in an accredited public school (K-12), including a charter school, located in the State of Mississippi. Individuals shall not be eligible to receive awards for the first time in this program after the 2016-17 academic year.

This section shall stand repealed effective July 1, 2020.

Fiscal Note:

The changes would not carry any additional cost. The changes would decrease the current administrative burden of administering so many small forgivable loan programs and would potentially save \$1.7 million.

Legislator Involvement/Interest:

Chairman Nolan Mettetal, House of Representatives Universities and Colleges Committee
Chairman Josh Harkins, Senate Universities and Colleges Committee

Subject Matter Experts:

State Director of Student Financial Aid; Postsecondary Board members; financial aid administrators

On motion by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Ms. Ross, all Board Members legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve Regular Agenda Items 6B and 6C to approve general legislation requests.

6. Approve General Legislation Requests for 2017 Legislative Session

- a. **Reference Title: Postsecondary education financial assistance board; report on the effectiveness and efficiency of state-supported Student Financial Aid programs**

Purpose:

To commission the Postsecondary Board to review the full portfolio of state-supported student financial aid programs every five years, beginning in 2017, to ensure that each program is effective in helping students access and succeed in college and that the programs collectively help the state reach its goal of a more educated citizenry.

Reason for Request:

The demand for state-supported Student Financial Aid has increased in recent years due primarily to the increased demand for the HELP Scholarship and in part to the creation of new programs without additional funds. Despite changes to HELP, the other two primary grant programs, MTAG and MESG, have remained virtually unchanged for 20 years. The state also administers more than 20 forgivable loan programs, many of which have a very narrow focus and limited impact. Low-income students are more likely to take out loans to finance their higher education. The HELP Scholarship is one way that Mississippi is providing grant aid to low-income students, but the HELP Scholarship is not available to all traditional students or to the state's many current and potential nontraditional

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students. Unfortunately, the current investment in HELP and the overall portfolio of Mississippi Student Financial Aid is not sufficient in a state with such widespread poverty. Mississippi can build on the success of the HELP Scholarship by identifying more ways to help students from low-income families complete a college credential or degree and enter the workforce with important skills. In many states, state student financial aid is being leveraged as an important tool in the college completion toolbox, but the ultimate goal of student financial aid in Mississippi is unclear. Therefore, it is recommended that the State review the full cadre of state-supported Student Financial Aid programs to ensure that each program is effective in helping students access and succeed in college and that the programs collectively help the state reach its goal of a more educated citizenry.

Suggested Legislation:

§ 37-106-11. Post-secondary education financial assistance board; compensation; powers; annual report

...

(5) Beginning in 2017 and every five years thereafter, the Board shall conduct a comprehensive review of all state-supported Student Financial Aid programs to determine the effectiveness of each program individually and the effectiveness of all programs collectively in helping Mississippi students access an affordable postsecondary education and complete a postsecondary credential. The Board shall report its findings with recommendations to the Legislature by December 31 of the review year.

Fiscal Note:

The changes would not carry any additional cost.

Legislator Involvement/Interest:

Chairman Nolan Mettetal, House of Representatives Universities and Colleges Committee
Chairman Josh Harkins, Senate Universities and Colleges Committee

Subject Matter Experts:

State Director of Student Financial Aid; Postsecondary Board members; financial aid administrators

b. Reference Title: Nissan Scholarship (NISS); authorize Postsecondary Board to promulgate Rules and Regulations

Purpose:

To authorize the Board to promulgate rules for the Nissan Scholarship.

Reason for Request:

In 2014, the Legislature consolidated code sections dealing with state-based student financial aid into Section 37-106 of the Miss. Code of 1972. By doing so, the Legislature placed all programs under the authority of the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board. The Nissan Scholarship Program (NISS) was not included in the consolidation. To complete the consolidation of legislation and ensure all state-based student financial aid programs are authorized by the same oversight body, the Postsecondary Board should be granted authority to promulgate Rules and Regulations for the Nissan Scholarship program.

Suggested Legislation:

§ 37-106-3. Declaration of purpose

(1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

...

(e) When appropriate, the Board shall administer grant and scholarship programs funded through alternate or private sources, such as the Nissan Scholarship program.

Fiscal Note:

MINUTES

The changes would not carry any additional cost.

Legislator Involvement/Interest:

Chairman Nolan Mettetal, House of Representatives Universities and Colleges Committee
Chairman Josh Harkins, Senate Universities and Colleges Committee

Subject Matter Experts:

State Director of Student Financial Aid; Postsecondary Board members; financial aid administrators

INFORMATION ITEMS

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

7. Update on Old Business

- a. **Approval of Rules Updates:** Updates approved by the Board during the June and July 2016 meeting were filed with the Secretary of State's Office according to the APA process. The Office received no comments during the public comment period. The final rules were adopted 30 days following the initial filing.

- b. **Take 15**

The Board discussed upcoming meeting dates.

8. Upcoming Meeting Dates

December 5, 2016
March 20, 2017
June 19, 2017

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS IF NECESSARY

The Board did not consider any additional agenda items.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

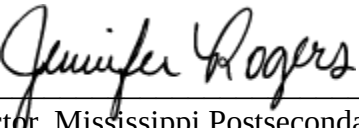
The Board did not consider any other business.

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.



Director, Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial
Assistance Board

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of the 2016 Annual Report of the State-Supported Student Financial Aid Programs

Jennifer Rogers, Director of Student Financial Aid and Director of the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board, will present the 2016 Annual Report of the State-Supported Student Financial Aid Programs. *Miss. Code Ann.* § 37-106-11(4) states:

(4) All funds administered by the board shall be accounted for in an annual report that shall be submitted to the Legislature within ten (10) days after the convening thereof each year. The report should detail for each grant or forgivable loan program the number of recipients, the total amount of awards made, and the average award amount. The report shall include the number of students at each institution receiving financial assistance and the amount of the assistance. For forgivable loan programs, the report shall also include a summary of the repayment status and method of repayment for student cohorts as well as an accounting of the receipt of funds in repayment.

Exhibit 1 – 2016 Annual Report of the State-Supported Student Financial Aid Programs (presented under separate cover)

Recommendation:

Board approval is recommended.

INFORMATION AGENDA

2. Update on Old Business

- a. Approval of Rules Updates:** Updates approved by the Board during the September 2016 meeting were filed with the Secretary of State's Office according to the APA process. The Office received no comments during the public comment period. The final rules were adopted 30 days following the final filing, on or about November 4, 2016.
- b. Board-Approved 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 approved legislative requests. Board members may be called upon during the Legislative Session to speak with legislators about funding and other matters.
- c. Additional General Legislation:** Senator David Blount will be sponsoring legislation to improve the aid delivery process and timeline. The proposed bill will require a two-year appropriation for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 to fund the upcoming fiscal year and the subsequent fiscal year. Forward-funding would allow the Office to make award offers on a rolling basis as soon as a student establishes eligibility. Timely notices would allow families to make informed decisions about financing higher education. In addition, forward-funding would also allow the Office to commit for funding for a full year, as funding levels would be pre-determined. Finally, the bill would prioritize full funding of the HELP Scholarship over other grant and loan programs.
- d. FAFSA Completion Project**
- e. 2017 Meeting Dates**
 - Monday, March 20, 2017
 - Monday, June 19, 2017
 - Monday, September 18, 2017
 - Monday, December 11, 2017