

Can We Expect the NCAA Investigation to Get Worse?

The February 18, 2015 Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning [DRAFT BOARD BOOK](#) offers a telltale sign that the NCAA investigation is going worse than expected.

3. USM – APPROVAL TO MODIFY CONTRACT WITH LIGHTFOOT, FRANKLIN & WHITE, PLLC, AS OUTSIDE COUNSEL

The University of Southern Mississippi requests approval to modify its contract with Lightfoot, Franklin & White, PLLC as outside counsel. The Board previously approved the employment of Lightfoot, Franklin & White, PLLC to assist the University by rendering legal advice and representation in the practice areas of NCAA compliance, investigation, appearances, and related matters. The approval was for a term beginning

October 29, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015, with a total amount payable under the arrangement not to exceed \$50,000 for attorneys' fees. The firm is currently representing the University in an investigation initiated by the NCAA related to the Men's Basketball Program. The firm has been actively engaged in representing the University in this matter since October. Legal activity of the attorneys has been driven by the swiftness and scope of the NCAA investigation, as well as specific directives of the enforcement staff. As a result, attorneys' fees are expected to exceed the original cap of \$50,000. The University requests Board approval to increase the total amount payable under the previously approved contract to \$75,000. The Attorney General has approved this request.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Board staff recommends approval of this item.