

# Control

## Who picks university presidents for Mississippi public universities?

As usmnews.net has previously reported, some local bloggers have contended that the faculty selected Dr. Rodney Bennett as the University of Southern Mississippi's newest president. Does anyone really believe that to be true? In case anyone thought that to be true, take a look at the "Board approval for first reading is requested regarding the below indicated propose (sic) changes to Board Policy 201.0509 Institutional Executive Officer / Commissioner of Higher Education Search Process." If approved, it appears that the IHL will have codified its control of the hiring process. [Click here](#) for a link to the IHL Final Board Book, June 20, 2013. So that you don't have to wade through the whole Board Book, [click here](#) for the relevant section.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING  
REGULAR AGENDA  
LEGAL  
JUNE 20, 2013  
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2. SYSTEM – REQUEST FOR APPROVAL FOR FIRST READING OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOARD POLICY 201.0509 INSTITUTIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER, COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION SEARCH PROCESS

Board approval for first reading is requested regarding the below indicated propose changes to Board Policy 201.0509 Institutional Executive Officer / Commissioner of Higher Education Search Process. In the alternative, the Board may want to consider motions to waive the requirement for an approval for first reading and, instead, use for final approval of 201.0509 INSTITUTIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER/COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION SEARCH PROCESS

A. General Policy

The Board shall appoint the Commissioner and the Institutional Executive Officers (IEOs). The Board shall make interim appointments to executive officer and/or commissioner positions as necessary and with such consultation as the Board considers appropriate.  
(BT Minutes, 4/2000; 11/2005; 12/2005; 1/2006; 3/2011; 5/2011;4/2012)

B. Board Search Committee

The President of the Board shall appoint a committee of Board members to manage the search for a Commissioner or an IEO. However, any Board member who wants to serve on the committee may serve. The President of the Board, with the consent of the Board, shall appoint a member of the committee as chairperson.

Rather than engaging in the extended search process described below within the next paragraph and those that follow, the Board may, with an affirmative vote by at least nine Board members, in its discretion interview candidates that are known to the Board and consider their selection in accordance with the expedited process described in this paragraph. Such candidates may be internal candidates from the subject university or from one of the other state universities, or such other candidates that the Board believes should be considered. The Board may conduct such interviews of internal candidates or other candidates at an early point in the process so as not to discourage the application of additional candidates that may choose to apply if an internal candidate is not selected by way of an expedited process. In any event, an expedited process, if followed, should be utilized prior to the hiring of a search consultant. Following interviews of any such internal or other candidates, the Board, as it deems appropriate, may proceed with utilizing any portions of the extended search process set out below. A Board vote to select a