

## What Is The IHL Talking About?

You have to wonder what these folks at the IHL are up to. The following is from the IHL's [Final Board Book](#), January 17, 2013, page 25.

### UNIVERSITY SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

October 15, 2012

The Committee was brought to order by Chairman Robin Robinson. In accordance with Miss. Code Ann., §25-41-1, as amended, all votes taken during this teleconference meeting were recorded by name in a rollcall fashion. The teleconference committee meeting was held to **discuss a personnel issue in conjunction with the University of Southern Mississippi presidential search.**

1. On motion by Trustee Dye, seconded by Trustee Patterson, with Trustee Pickering absent and not voting, the Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to **approve the schedule of search meetings.**
2. On motion by Trustee Dye, seconded by Trustee Owens, with Trustee Pickering absent and not voting, the Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to **approve the position description** as provided.
3. On motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Dye, with Trustee Pickering absent and not voting, the Committee members legally present and participating voted unanimously to adjourn. [Emphasis added.]

If anyone thinks these vaguely written statements provide meaningful disclosure of governmental activities, please advise us what it means.

What does it mean “to **discuss a personnel issue in conjunction with the University of Southern Mississippi presidential search**”?

Does the “preferred candidate” already have a “personnel issue”? Has s/he already screwed up?

Or, is the IHL laying the groundwork for something they know and must make some special legal dispensation to make their secret gamesmanship work?

It has the feeling of what then-Dean Harold Doty and Professor Charles Jordan did when they were caught [plagiarizing documents](#). They secretly got permission to copy the documents “without proper citation”—Jordan’s terminology—and then claimed that getting permission made the plagiarism ethical behavior.

Secrecy doesn’t promote trust and often promotes corruption.