

Retroactive Approval

As usmnews.net's reporters reviewed the Mississippi Board Of Trustees Of State Institutions Of Higher Learning Final Board Book [June 20, 2013](#), they couldn't help but notice the number of contracts between USM and outside companies that were retroactively approved by the IHL. None of these contract amounts were trivial. Here are a few examples copied in part from the Board Book:

(June 20, 2013) the IHL Board is requested to provide RETROACTIVE approval of the 2009 original agreement, along with the two subsequent changes, totaling \$339,600.

(June 20, 2013) the IHL Board is requested to provide RETROACTIVE approval of the 2005 and 2009 agreements, totaling \$464,000.

June 20, 2013) the IHL Board is requested to provide RETROACTIVE approval of the 2010 original and subsequently renewed agreements, totaling \$452,724.

At this point, readers are no doubt asking:

- 1) Is the IHL still cleaning up after former President (now Provost at the University of West Florida) Martha Saunders? Remember the [Tablegate](#) scandal in which a \$400,000+ contract effected by the [Saunders administration](#) violated state law. That law requires, in part, that University contracts in excess of \$250,000 must be approved by the IHL.
- 2) Where was the IHL in carrying out it's oversight responsibilities when these contracts were signed at the University level?
- 3) What safeguards has IHL implemented to insure that it has the opportunity to review and approve (or disapprove) contracts as required by law?
- 4) What disciplinary action was taken to remind university administrators of the need to obtain legally mandated approval before binding the University?

Unfortunately, we don't have answers to these questions. Perhaps some of usmnews.net's readers can provide some insights.