

Dr. Rouse, It's Time to Stop Embarrassing Yourself and the State of Mississippi

“The Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning”—**wow, what a title**—in their “Final Board Handbook, dated August, 16, 2012” reported “Minutes of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning June 21, 2012”—**hold on, our “trustees” are getting to the point, just hold on**—“ADMINISTRATION/POLICY AGENDA, Presented by Commissioner Hank M. Bounds.” With that introduction, and without further ado, here’s the news all that introduction announced:

“On motion by Trustee Patterson, seconded by **Trustee Rouse**, all Trustees legally present and participating voted unanimously to approve agenda item #2.

2. System - Approved the appointment of the Board [Presidential] Search Committee Members as follows:

University of Southern Mississippi

1. Robin Robinson, Chair
2. Dr. Ford Dye
3. Bob Owens
4. Christy Pickering
5. **Dr. Doug Rouse [Emphasis added.]”**

There’s no wonder that a unanimous vote by Dr. Rouse’s fellow trustees to assigned him to the influential position of selecting the next president of USM. After all, as reported in the Hattiesburg American, “the state College Board ... argued before the Ethics Commission to reconsider its Rouse opinion...” (Conflict of Interest? Rouse may have violated ethics law, 08.10.2012) The Mississippi Ethics Commission opinion was that Rouse violated ethics law in that Rouse had “dual roles as public servant to state universities and owner of a business that provides medical services to Southern Miss.”

Let’s take a second to review what it means to be a “trustee.” Trustee is defined as “an individual person or member of a board given control or powers of administration of property in trust with a legal obligation to administer it solely for the purposes specified.”

Trust—ee? Rouse, the duty Mississippi entrusted to you does not include administering/overseeing taxpayer and student resources for your personal benefit. Pretty simple idea, if you think about it.

Dr. Rouse, what in h-e-double-l are you doing in an influential position of choosing the next president of USM? Assuring uninterrupted control over the business relationship between your medical practice and USM?

Stop embarrassing yourself and Mississippi, Dr. Rouse, and resign from the IHL.