

Well...What's the Decision?

Did Dr. Rouse Violate Ethical Standards?

Mississippi Ethics Commission

Advisory Opinion No. 12-058-E

July 16, 2012

Question presented: May a member of a state board of trustees and/or businesses in which he holds a material financial interest provide services to an institution governed by the board?

Brief answer: No. The receipt of medical insurance benefits by the trustee or business where the insurance premiums are paid by the university or its athletic foundation would violate Section 109, Miss. Const. of 1890, and Section 25-4-105(2) and (3)(a), Miss. Code of 1972. Additionally, an agreement between a university and a business owned by a trustee creates an appearance of impropriety and should be avoided in compliance with Section 25-4-101.

Dr. Douglas W. Rouse is the subject of this finding of ethical misconduct first decided on July 16, 2012.

And Dr. Rouse is still a member of the IHL.

A watermark across the opinion states, "This opinion is currently being reconsidered."

STILL.

What's the delay? What's so difficult about either affirming or rejecting the original opinion? Presumably the Commission gave careful consideration the first time.

Well...did Dr. Rouse violate ethical standards? Why or why not?