



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING**

Glenn F. Boyce, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education

July 15, 2015

The Honorable Herb Frierson, Chairman
House of Representatives Appropriations Committee
400 High Street
Jackson, MS 39201

Dear Chairman Frierson:

On behalf of the Institutions of Higher Learning, please accept the attached responses regarding the proposed 7.8 percent reduction in state support funds for FY 2016. Such a reduction will require a system-wide cut of \$58,811,211.97 including a cut of \$31,167,739.20 to the general support for the eight public universities. Since the reduction would most likely occur during the second half of FY 2016 when less than half the state support funds remain available for disbursement, such a reduction will entail an approximately 15.6% reduction to the remaining FY 2016 state support funds with a permanent 7.8% reduction moving forward.

A 7.8 percent reduction to the general support for the eight public universities would be distributed as follows:

	FY 2016 Reduction Amount
Alcorn State University	1,692,303.44
Delta State University	1,809,043.08
Jackson State University	3,352,265.75
Mississippi State University	7,941,326.41
Mississippi University for Women	1,361,185.33
Mississippi Valley State University	1,357,189.63
University of Mississippi	7,089,311.03
University of Southern Mississippi	6,545,614.53
Charter School Authorizer Board	19,500.00
Total	31,167,739.20

A 7.8 percent reduction to the support for the Subsidiary Programs, Student Financial Aid, the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and the Agricultural Units would be distributed as follows:

	FY 2016 Reduction Amount
Subsidiary Programs	2,914,233.11
Student Financial Aid	3,022,896.01
UMMC	14,722,849.67
ASU AG	529,235.15
MSU MAFES	1,947,817.33
MSU MCES	2,505,841.88
MSU FWRC	513,637.02
MSU CVM	1,486,962.59
Total	27,643,472.77

As you will see in the attached responses prepared by the universities, a reduction to FY 2016 state support funds will be difficult to manage. The primary way for universities to achieve the reduction is to freeze vacant positions and to furlough and/or to reduce current personnel including faculty. Based on the responses, at least 700 current positions may be affected by furloughs, layoffs, or unfilled positions. It should be noted that several universities have already eliminated all vacant positions and have already laid off employees because of other financial conditions existing prior to the proposed reduction. The universities have yet to recover to pre-recession funding levels. Therefore, a permanent 7.8% reduction in state support funds will begin to endanger access, quality, and possibly accreditation for certain universities.

If the budget reduction occurs and becomes permanent, some universities would seek increased tuition and fees for Academic Year 2017. Many of the increases would be double-digit increases that may continue into the foreseeable future. Dramatically higher tuition and fees coupled with reduced state support for a Student Financial Aid Program that currently has a \$5.37 million deficit will deny access to affordable higher education for many Mississippi students. Even for those students who are from more affluent families and whose families desire to purchase prepaid tuition contracts through the Mississippi Prepaid Affordable College Tuition Program may find that those contracts will now be beyond their means since contract costs are based on tuition rates.

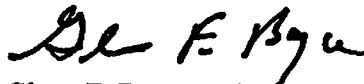
Fewer faculty will result in fewer sections and in larger class sizes, both of which will increase the time to degree and the cost of completion. Increased costs will likely lead to declines in enrollment which will further reduce the funds that are available to support university operations.

Chairman Frierson
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The attached documents further detail how budget reductions at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, the Agricultural Units, and the Subsidiary Units will impact research and service to Mississippians in the areas of healthcare, food security, agricultural productivity, and much more. These units provide real-time educational opportunities to our students while also offering valuable research and support to Mississippi health care, farmers, and businesses.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to explain how this proposed state support reduction would impact our institutions in the current fiscal year and beyond. Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn F. Boyce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Glenn F. Boyce, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Higher Education