A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 213-A OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890 TO PROVIDE THAT FROM AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2002, APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING SHALL BE MADE FROM THE FOUR MISSISSIPPI CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS, AND TO PROVIDE A TERM OF OFFICE FOR SUCH NEW APPOINTMENTS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That the following amendment to the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 is proposed to the qualified electors of the state:

Amend Section 213-A, Mississippi Constitution of 1890, to read as follows:

Section 213-A. The state institutions of higher learning now existing in Mississippi, to wit: University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University of Agriculture and Applied Science, Mississippi University for Women, University of Southern Mississippi, Delta State University, Alcorn State University, Jackson State University, Mississippi Valley State University, and any others of like kind which may be hereafter organized or established by the State of Mississippi, shall be under the management and control of a board of trustees to be known as the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, the members thereof to be appointed by the Governor of the state with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor shall appoint only men and women as such members as shall be qualified electors residing in the district from which each is appointed, and at least twenty-five (25) years of age, and of the highest order of intelligence, character, learning and fitness for the performance...
of such duties, to the end that such board shall perform the high
and honorable duties thereof to the greatest advantage of the
people of the state of such educational institutions, uninfluenced
by any political considerations. The members of the board of
trustees as constituted on January 1, 2002, whose terms have not
expired shall serve the balance of their terms, after which time
the membership of the board shall be appointed as follows: There
shall be appointed three (3) members of the board of trustees from
each of the four (4) Mississippi congressional districts as they
exist on January 1, 2002, and the Governor shall make appointments
from the congressional district having the smallest number of
board members until the membership includes three (3) members from
each district as required. The term of office of the members
appointed after January 1, 2002, shall be six (6) years. In case
of a vacancy on said board by death or resignation of a member, or
from any other cause than the expiration of such member's term of
office, the board shall elect his successor, who shall hold office
until the end of the next session of the Legislature. During such
term of the session of the Legislature the Governor shall appoint
the successor member of the board from the district from which his
predecessor was appointed, to hold office until the end of the
period for which such original trustee was appointed, to the end
that one-third (1/3) of such trustees' terms will expire each four
(4) years.

The Legislature shall provide by law for the appointment of a
trustee for the La Bauve Fund at the University of Mississippi and
for the perpetuation of such fund.

Such board shall have the power and authority to elect the
heads of the various institutions of higher learning, and contract
with all deans, professors and other members of the teaching
staff, and all administrative employees of said institutions for a
term not exceeding four (4) years; but said board shall have the
power and authority to terminate any such contract at any time for
malfeasance, inefficiency or contumacious conduct, but never for political reasons.

Nothing herein contained shall in any way limit or take away the power the Legislature had and possessed, if any, at the time of the adoption of this amendment, to consolidate, abolish or change the status of any of the above named institutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment to the Constitution shall be submitted to the qualified electors of this state at an election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November 2002, in the manner provided by Section 273 of the Constitution and by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the explanation of this proposed amendment for the ballot shall read as follows: "This proposed amendment provides that after January 1, 2002, new members of the twelve-member Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning shall be composed of three (3) members from each of the Mississippi congressional districts and the term of office of such new appointments shall be for six (6) years."