To: Universities and Colleges; Constitution

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 521

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 213-A OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTION OF 1890 TO PROVIDE THAT FROM AND AFTER JANUARY 1, 2003, ONE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, AT LEAST ONE GRADUATE FROM EACH UNIVERSITY FROM THE STATE AT LARGE, AND NO MORE THAN TWO MEMBERS MAY BE GRADUATES OF THE SAME UNIVERSITY; 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, 2003, 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: The
Governor shall appoint one (1) member from each congressional
district. The Governor shall appoint from the state at large not
less than one (1) member who is a graduate of the University of
Mississippi, not less than one (1) member who is a graduate of
Mississippi State University of Agriculture and Applied Science,
not less than one (1) member who is a graduate of Mississippi
University for Women, not less than one (1) member who is a
graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, not less than
one (1) member who is a graduate of Delta State University, not
less than one (1) member who is a graduate of Alcorn State
University, not less than one (1) member who is a graduate of
Jackson State University, and not less than one (1) member who is
a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University. No more than
two (2) members shall be a graduate of the same university. The
term of office of the members shall be twelve (12) 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, 2003, new members of the 
twelve-member Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher 
Learning shall be composed of one (1) member from each 
congressional district. The remaining members are appointed from 
the state at large and each state university must have at least 
one (1) graduate as a member of the board. No university can have 
more than two (2) graduates as members of the board."