
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH COMMISSIONER LAYZELL
DATE 5/16/01
CC: FILE

I am trying to initiate regular meetings with the educational agency heads on a regular basis in order to have a stronger grasp on the operations of our educational organizations and to enhance communications with them. I had my first meeting with Commissioner Layzell this past Monday and he shared the following:

- The Board will make the allocations of funds to the universities at this week's board meeting, which I will attend. The Board discussed the options at last month's meeting. Layzell said that everyone realizes that the next two years are going to be lean and everyone is just going to have to make it work.
- IHL will actually be providing approximately 800 more additional financial assistance packages next year than it did this year. Priority is given to renewals, MTAG and the Eminent Scholars Program.
- The Board is starting its evaluation of the presidents, with Dr. Rent and Dr. Fleming up for evaluation. The Board evaluates each president at the mid-point of his/her four-year contract and at the end of each contract.
- The Board will discuss Ayers at this meeting. Layzell said that it is important that the legislative leadership express support for the agreement. Layzell said that it is Judge Biggers' position to question the agreement and to make changes to it, but Layzell thinks Biggers can be persuaded on some of the differences, especially the trigger language.
- The Board is continuing its ongoing discussion and review of each university's mission. MSU and Ole Miss' missions will be discussed at this board meeting.
- Teacher prep is of concern to the Board. Layzell said that there is an effort to align curriculums and certification standards with MDE's standards.
- Technology is also an ongoing issue for the Board. He said that probably less than 15% of our university classes use technology as a total means of instruction. He wants to see this increased.
- IHL is going to invite the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges and the Department of Education to a discussion of how the three can work together to improve education. He is going to send me an invitation as well.

Please let me know if you would rather only have a memo on potential "problems" discovered through these meetings rather than a summary, such as this, of each one.