

Mississippi Coalition on Black Higher Education
334 Forest Avenue
Jackson, MS 39206
August 24, 2001

Governor Ronnie Musgrove
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
Jackson, MS 39201

Dear Governor Musgrove:

We wish to thank you for meeting with the Coalition to share ideas relative to the Ayers case. We are pleased with how receptive your office was with our ideas and comments regarding the proposed settlement agreement. We are also pleased with how the meeting ended on a positive note, namely, your request for the submission of a list of our recommended solutions to a fair and just resolution to the Ayers case.

As per your request, we submit the following for your consideration and with a request that you use your influence and good offices to persuade Judge Neal Biggers and the College Board to accept and approve them as the basis for the settlement, before the fairness hearing on September 4, 2001.

1. The settlement agreement does not deal with admissions.
Solution: Students should be able to gain automatic admission based upon either an ACT score of 13 or above, an overall grade point average of 2.5 or above, or class rank in the upper 50% of their class.

2. The proposed settlement agreement does not compensate for the past treatment of African Americans and the institutions which they were expected and required to attend.
Solution:

A. Mission – Alcorn State University needs to be given the authority and funding to enable it to become a full-fledged land grant university on the order of Mississippi State University, Florida A and M University, Southern University, and North Carolina A and T University, with a school of engineering and other programs such as civil engineering, electro-mechanical engineering, manufacturing and robotic engineering, and other programs that would enhance its land grant function.

Jackson State University needs to be given the authority and funding to enable it to become a full-fledged urban university on the order of Howard University, University of Southern Mississippi, University of Memphis, and University of Louisville, with programs in law, criminal justice, urban planning, communication, and others that would enhance its urban mission.

Mississippi Valley State University needs to be given the authority and funding to enable it to become a full-fledged technical university on the order of Texas Technical University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Louisiana Technical University, and Tennessee Technical University, with programs in transportation, computer technology, construction, and others that would enhance its original mission as a vocational institution.

B. Programs, Facilities, and Equipment – Funding for programs, equipment, and facilities need to be at equitable levels with those of Mississippi State University, Delta State University, Mississippi University for Women, University of Mississippi, and University of Southern