Dear Faculty and Staff:

I would like to thank each of you for setting aside time to complete the series of online training courses the University has provided over the past two years to cover important topics related to security awareness, discrimination, harassment, and other ethical considerations. This training supports the University’s commitment to building and preserving a safe community conducive to academic success, where each person is prepared to address issues that could affect our individual or collective safety, well-being, and ability to learn and grow.

I am very sensitive to the fact that a significant number of training courses has been provided in a short period of time, and I have asked the Office of Compliance, which coordinates the course delivery process, to develop an annual training schedule to identify how often certain courses need to be delivered and to assist the University community in planning training time each year.

As you may know, Executive Order 1392, which was issued by Governor Phil Bryant earlier this spring, requires all employees of the State of Mississippi to complete sexual harassment training once during the term of their employment with the State. The Executive Order also requires State employers to certify that the training has been completed by June 30, 2017.

In an effort to maximize current resources, the State Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) system requested and received permission for IHL employees to meet this state-wide training requirement by completing existing training courses available at their respective institutions. For USM employees, our Unlawful Harassment Prevention training course will satisfy this requirement.

If you have already taken the Unlawful Harassment Prevention training course during your term of employment with the University, no action is required. If you have not previously taken this course at USM, I ask that you do so by May 31, 2017, to assist us in meeting the state-wide requirements outlined in Executive Order 1392. I also ask that you ensure that the student employees in your units complete this course. Information about how to access this training is available at the bottom of this message.

If you have any questions about this Executive Order or how to complete the required training, please contact the Office of Compliance via email at compliance@usm.edu or call 601.266.4466.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

Rodney D. Bennett
President

To complete the training required by Executive Order 1392:

- Access the training portal at https://slate.workplaceanswers.com/UnivSM/
- Use your SOAR user name and password to log into the system
• Click on Take Your Courses, which can be found on the left-hand menu
• Select and complete the *Unlawful Harassment Prevention* course