

**MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' WINTER MEETING**

Cochran Hall

Saturday, February 13, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The winter quarterly meeting of the Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association was held on the MUW campus at Cochran Hall on February 13, 2016, at 12:01 noon with President Amy Strickland Tate presiding. A quorum was present. President Tate called the meeting to order. Wanda Ray moved to adopt our agenda.

II. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

President Tate extended her welcome to all the board members present in person and those participating via teleconference. She highlighted some of the notables from Dr. Borsig's PowerPoint presentation including an annual total headcount of 3207 (up 8% since 2009); a 50% increase (573 to 860) in degrees conferred, 2010 – 2015; and the recent priorities process and strategic goals for the next five (5) years (2016 – 2021). A public announcement will be made during Homecoming 2016. President Tate also thanked Derrick Webb of the Archives Department and Senior student, Tevin Arrington, for their update from the Desegregation Committee. She encouraged the Board members to attend the following Homecoming functions: the Long Blue Line Auction & Welcome Dinner on Friday from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.; the reading of the oral histories of the first African-American women to attend The W on Friday at 8:00 p.m.; and the Black Alumni Gala on Saturday evening from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. President Tate also thanked the Board members, the Alumni Office staff, and Dr. Borsig for working so diligently on the Back to Blue campaign this past year. It resulted in a 21% increase in the number of active alumni for the university.

III. ROLL CALL

The roll was called. MUW Alumni Association Board Members present:

Amy Strickland Tate, President	Sue Simmons Freeman, Secretary
Deborah Stockman Hodges, President-Elect	Wesley H. Garrett, Parliamentarian
Jenny Katool, Immediate Past President	Wanda G. Ray
Malinda Mabry-Scott, Treas. (via teleconference)	Elizabeth Whittington
Barbara Austin (via teleconference)	Brandy Burnette
Troy J. Lewis (via teleconference)	Carrie V. Pate
Stephen Taylor (via teleconference)	Kristi Hipp Mosley
Chris Halbrooks (via teleconference)	Erica W. Woodward
Courtney Ballard Murtaugh (via teleconference)	Ralph W. McLain, Foundation Chair

Sunshine Burgess (via teleconference)

MUW Alumni Association Board Members absent:

Donna E. Marrero

Katherine Shell Benson

Ex-Officio Members of the MUW Alumni Association Board present:

Lyndsay B. Cumberland, Director of Alumni Relations

Guests present:

Katy Canion Pacelli

Andrea Nester Stevens, Exec. Dir. of Development and Alumni (via teleconference)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

As there were no corrections to the Oct. 24, 2015 minutes, Barbara Austin moved that the minutes be approved as presented.

V. ALUMNI OFFICE REPORT

Lyndsay Cumberland, Director of Alumni Relations, reported that alumni gatherings have been held in Natchez and New Orleans since our last board meeting. The MUWAA held 100th Night for the seniors on Feb. 4th and Amy Strickland Tate was in attendance. Other upcoming gatherings are as follow.

Jackson Metro Chapter Scholarship fundraiser – Feb. 27th at 6:00 p.m. at MS Crafts Ctr.

MUW Homecoming – March 31st – April 3rd

MUWAA Spring Board Meeting – Friday, April 2nd at 2:00 p.m. in Cochran Hall

Delta Chapter – April 9th at 11:30 a.m. at Greenwood Country Club

Birmingham Chapter – April 14th at 5:30 p.m. at Bright Star Restaurant

Arkansas Chapter – May 21 at 11:30 a.m. at Best Impressions Restaurant in Little Rock

New York MS Picnic in Central Park – June 11th at noon

Wash. DC's MS Picnic on the Mall – June 18th at 3:00 p.m.

Atlanta's MS Picnic at Chastain Park – June 25th at 10:30 a.m.

Lowndes County Chapter – July 28th at 11:30 a.m. at Lion Hills

Lowndes County Chapter Send-off Party – July 31st at 2:00 p.m. at President's Home

Jackson Metro Chapter Send-Off Party – August 7th at 3:00 p.m. at Brent's Drugs

Gulf Coast Chapter – August 13th at 11:30 a.m. at Boggy Creek Vineyard

Middle Tennessee Chapter – Sept. 8th at 6:30 p.m. at Amerigo's

VI. MUWAA OFFICERS' REPORTS

Malinda Mabry-Scott, Treasurer, referenced the Treasurer report as presented. She indicated that \$3,000.00 was moved from the Southern Grace fund to the Culinary Arts Scholarship leaving a balance of \$769.68 in the Southern Grace fund. Melinda reminded committee chairs that if any committees require budget funds that she needs those requests before the next quarterly board meeting at Homecoming.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations Committee – Jenny Katool, Chair, reported that the Nominations Committee received a total of 22 (twenty-two) candidate recommendations which included 12 (twelve) non-duplicate candidates and 10 (ten) ineligible candidates. The Nominations Committee is recommending the following slate for the 2016 election.

Board of Directors:

Carolyn Wilson Byrd, Class of 1976, Mobile, AL
Melissa Hays Gilmore, Class of 1982, Columbus, MS
Kristie Metcalfe, Class of 2004, Jackson, MS
Pam Towery Rhea, Class of 1992, Columbus, MS
Heather Fasciocco Stone, Class of 2002, Longmont, CO

For President-Elect:

Courtney Ballard Murtaugh, Class of 1978, Barrington, IL

Elections Committee – Troy Lewis, Chair, reported that the Elections Committee received the slate of 5 (five) Directors and 1 (one) President-Elect on February 1st from the Nominations Committee. Biographical packets were prepared for each nominee. The Elections Committee members previewed and approved the email to be sent out by the Alumni Office. The voting period will be open between February 15th and February 29th.

Bylaws Committee – Brandy Burnette, Chair, reported that the Bylaws Committee has held meetings via email and teleconferences to discuss clarifying perceived confusion between the two (2) sets of documents, the Bylaws and the Nominations and Elections Policies and Procedures as they relate to the current nomination and election procedures. The Bylaws Committee presented four (4) options for consideration by the Board.

Option 1: Removes the write-in petition provision from the Bylaws and the December 1st Date from the Policies and Procedures. **Bylaws change: Yes. Allows for write-in nominations: No.**

Option 2: Interprets the write-in provision as another form of a traditional nomination;

Therefore the Bylaws are untouched. The Policies and Procedures are modified to state that the write-in petitions would be held for consideration and vetting by the Committee just as any other nominee. **By-laws change: No. Allows for write-in nominations: No.**

Option 3: Modifies the Policies and Procedures to state that the write-in petitions would go to the Nominations Committee for consideration, but that even if the nominees were not selected for the slate, they would still be on the ballot if eligible. **Bylaws change: No. Allows for write-in nominations: Yes.**

Option 4: Modifies the Bylaws to move write-in petition from under the Nomination Committee to the Elections general section. Modifies the Bylaws by removing the December 1st date and requiring write-in petitions to be received after the slate is announced. Modifies the Bylaws by requiring publication of the slate to all MUWAA Members at least 7 days before elections begin so that write-in petitions may be received, verified, and write-in candidates can be put on the ballot. **Bylaws change: Yes. Allows for write-in nominations: Yes.**

Discussion was held on each of the above options. Parliamentarian Wesley Garrett clarified that our Bylaws will take precedence over Robert's Rules of Order in regards to write-ins. After discussions ended, Brandy moved that the Board consider Option 1. The motion failed. Brandy moved that the Board consider Option 2. The motion failed. Brandy moved that the Board consider Option 3. The motion failed. Brandy moved that the Board consider Option 4. The motion passed.

Sue Simmons Freeman then moved that the Option 4 recommendation to the Bylaws Committee be changed to reflect the removal of the December 1st date; the removal of requiring publication of the slate seven (7) days prior to the election; and that write-in nominations be allowed on the election ballots without the 30 signature requirement. If the write-in candidates do not meet eligibility requirements, those candidates' names and votes will be discarded (not counted). The motion passed. This recommendation will go back to the Bylaws Committee for further consideration.

Recruitment and Retention Committee – Sue Simmons Freeman presented for Chair Katherine Shell Benson and reported that the following MUW Faculty/Staff have agreed to serve on the Faculty Scholarship Committee: Bridget Pieschel – Chair; Jennifer Box; Towanda Williams; and Dustin Nolan. The funds provided by the MUW Alumni Association New Faculty Award were used to purchase supplies to enhance the education of students enrolled in Public Health Education courses. Provost Thomas Richardson is in the process of selecting the 2016 recipients of the Faculty Awards and Grants. He will provide those winners by March 2nd so that they can be announced at the Homecoming 2016 Convocation. 100th Night was held on February 4th. The W seniors were treated to a Hot Chocolate and Sweets Station. The gift for the seniors was a blue tumbler with a University Relations approved logo of Ody the Owl designed by Laura Tubb Prestwich of our committee. The committee worked with Lyndsay Cumberland to change the location for the MUWAA Award Recipients Reception during Homecoming weekend to

encourage higher attendance. Convocation will be held in Rent Auditorium of Whitfield Hall on April 2nd from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. and the awards reception will be held immediately following in the atrium of Whitfield Hall from 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. The committee encourages all Board members to attend and show support for our MUWAA Award Recipients.

The MUWAA Award Recipients are as follow.

Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award: Doris A. Taylor '76

Distinguished Achievement Award: Chris Jenkins, Friend of the University

Alumni Service Award: Elysa Harvey MacLellan '88

Outstanding Recent Graduate Award: Joey Barnes '05

Chapter and Constituencies Committee – Katy Canion Pacelli, Chair, reported that the Back to Blue Campaign was very successful in achieving a higher percentage of active alumni. She reported that the number of alumni who were active for 2015 (gave \$40.00 or more during calendar year 2014 including life members) was 1,408 while the number of alumni who are active for 2016 is 1,681 (a 19.30% increase). It was also noted that more than 200 alumni made a first-time donation to The W, and an additional 203 alumni gave for the first time in the past five (5) years. The final numbers showed that active membership doubled in size over the past five (5) years. President Tate thanked Katy for her committee's diligent work in spearheading this successful membership campaign. A news release is slated for immediate release.

Special Events – Kristi Hipp Mosley, Chair, reported that donations and sponsorships for the upcoming Long Blue Line Silent Auction are currently being received and solicited. She indicated that more items are needed for the auction. She announced the time-line for the auction events. The online auction will begin on Monday, March 14th at 8:00 a.m. and end on Friday, March 25th at 8:00 p.m. The online auction website is: www.biddingowl.com/MUWAA2016. The silent auction will be held on Friday, April 1st from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Shattuck Hall. An optional dinner (cost \$20.00/person) will also be held in Shattuck in conjunction with the auction. The email address for the online auction is: longbluelineauction2016@gmail.com. She reminded the Board members that all are asked to donate an item(s) or provide a sponsorship of \$100.00. Items being sought include vintage W items; vacation donations; alumni chapter baskets; art items; and professional services donations. The auction benefits the MUWAA's Legacy Scholarship.

Public Relations – Elizabeth Yoste Whittington, Chair, reported that the press release for the successful Back to Blue campaign will be released following the winter Board meeting. Her committee continues to release the bios for Board members in the "Meet the Board" series via Facebook. The committee will pay for upcoming advertisement (\$126.00) for membership in the MUWAA in an upcoming edition of the Spectator. The group is working to promote the Long Blue Line Silent Auction with a short Facebook video and paid posts. The committee is also working on an upcoming membership newsletter.

MUWAA Former Presidents' Committee – Jenny Katool presented for Chair Sherrie Jackson Cooper and reported that Dr. Borsig and the University will host a breakfast on Saturday of HC weekend at the President's home for the past MUWAA Presidents and the past MUW Foundation Chairs. The committee plans to send a survey to all former MUWAA Presidents to identify ways for them to best serve the University and the current MUWAA President and Board of Directors.

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Southern Grace Committee – Courtney Ballard Murtaugh, Chair, reported that the MUWAA cannot use gifts of the cookbook for promotional purposes for new membership. The committee will continue its plans to give complimentary copies to new faculty members; graduating seniors who turn in their caps and gowns; and also to visiting VIP's and guest speakers until the inventory is exhausted.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Malinda Mabry-Scott moved that the Board approve the email votes for the 2016 MUWAA Alumni Award Recipients. The motion passed.

X. NEW BUSINESS

President-Elect Deborah Stockman Hodges reminded the Board members to think about dedicated and good nominees for the Nominations Committee to consider in the future.

XI. OPEN FORUM

XII. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS

President Tate thanked all on the board for their diligent work on the successful Back to Blue campaign and their respective committees. She reminded the Board members that our next meeting will be held on Friday afternoon, April 1st at 2:30 p.m. in Cochran Hall of HC weekend and will include the meeting of the current Board members followed by the meeting with the new Board members.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Sue Simmons Freeman, Secretary

