

**MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2015 – 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SPRING MEETING**

Cochran Hall

Friday, April 1, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The spring quarterly meeting of the Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association 2015 – 2016 Board of Directors was held on the MUW campus at Cochran Hall on April 1, 2016, at 2:02 p.m. with President Amy Strickland Tate presiding. A quorum was present. President Tate called the meeting to order.

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, Treasurer	Barbara Austin
Elizabeth Whittington	Brandy Burnette
Chris Halbrooks	Carrie V. Pate
Sunshine Burgess	Kristi Hipp Mosley
Courtney Ballard Murtaugh	Erica W. Woodard
Katherine Shell Benson (via teleconference)	Stephen Taylor (via teleconference)

MUW Alumni Association Board Members absent:

Troy J. Lewis
Donna E. Marrero
Mr. Ralph W. McLain, Foundation Chair

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

Lyndsay B. Cumberland, Director of Alumni Relations

Guests present:

Beverly K. Jones	Peggy Scott Hampton
Susan R. Puckett	Ricki R. Garrett
Erin Gioia	Betty Lou Jones
Dr. Elaine Logan Evans	Judge Mary Libby Payne
Katy Canion Pacelli	Rebecca Rogers
Pam Rhea	Melissa Gilmore
Heather Fasciocco Stone	Carolyn Byrd
Suzanne Scanlan	Lind Ross Aldy

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted as presented.

III. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

President Tate welcomed all the board members (current and new) as well as the guests.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

As there were no corrections to the February 13, 2016 minutes, Barbara Austin moved that the minutes be approved as presented. The motion carried.

V. ALUMNI OFFICE REPORT

Lyndsay Cumberland, Director of Alumni Relations, reported that the university had 335 alumni that pre-registered for Homecoming (an increase over the prior year). She reported that 29 new active members had joined the Alumni Association through Homecoming registration. She also reported on upcoming alumni gatherings planned over the next several months (the list is on the university website under the Alumni Association tab).

VI. MUWAA OFFICERS' REPORTS

Malinda Mabry-Scott, Treasurer, provided the following fund balances as of February 29, 2016. Alumni Association Activities Fund - \$10,976.49; Southern Grace - \$769.68 (\$3,000.00 was moved to the Culinary Arts Scholarship); MUW Alumni Association Legacy Scholarship - \$2,630.40 (\$2,099.25 in Faculty expenses were paid in December); Alumni Restricted Account - \$16,178.78.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations Committee – Jenny Katool, Chair, indicated that Courtney Ballard Murtaugh's selection as President-Elect will vacate a Board member position for the Class of 2018 and as per the Bylaws, the Nominations Committee recommends that Rebecca Rogers '01 fill the unexpired term for the Class of 2018 for the MUWAA Board of Directors.

Elections Committee – Chair Troy Lewis' report detailed that a total of 169 valid ballots were cast and the Elections Committee confirms the following results for the MUWAA Board of Directors for the 2016 – 2019 term.

Carolyn Wilson Byrd, Mobile, AL, Class of 1976

Melissa Hays Gilmore, Columbus, MS, Class of 1982
Kristie Lynn Metcalfe, Jackson, MS, Class of 2004
Pam Towery Rhea, Columbus, MS, Class of 1992
Heather Fasciocco Stone, Longmont, CO, Class of 2002

The Elections Committee confirms the following result for the MUWAA President-Elect for 2016 – 2017 term.

Courtney Ballard Murtaugh, Barrington, IL, Class of 1978

Bylaws Committee – Brandy Burnette, Chair, reported that the Bylaws Committee made revisions to the Bylaws and Policies & Procedures as per modifications that were voted on during the Winter Board Meeting on February 13, 2016. The revision integrated the Bylaws’ provision for write-in candidates with the actual process of current elections by allowing for the write-in candidates to be added to the ballot at the time of election and vetted afterwards if that person receives a sufficient number of votes. The Bylaws Committee also made revisions to the Bylaws correcting Lyndsay Cumberland’s title from “Executive Director” to “Director”; changed references from “dues” to “minimum contributions”; and changed contribution payments for membership from both the Foundation and the MUWAA to just the Foundation. All edits were submitted to Dr. Jim Borsig for his approval as per the Affiliation Agreement. He granted his approval on March 22, 2016.

Recruitment and Retention – Member Sue Simmons Freeman gave the report for Chair Katherine Shell Benson. The Faculty Scholarship Committee (Bridget Pieschel, Chair, Jennifer Box, Towanda Williams, Dustin Nolan, Pam Thomas, and Marion McEwen) will meet in May to choose the recipient and the winners will be announced in August.

The Faculty Research Committee selected Mr. Lee Crouse for the New Faculty Award Winner and Mr. Valentin Bogdan from the College of Arts and Sciences as a Faculty Enhancement Grant Winner.

The Alumni Award Winners for 2016 are as listed below.
Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award: Doris A. Taylor, Class of 1976
Distinguished Achievement Award: Chris Jenkins, Friend of the University
Alumni Service Award: Elysa Harvey MacLellan, Class of 1988
Outstanding Recent Graduate Award: Joey Barnes, Class of 2005

The PR Committee will be doing press releases on all the above winners.

The Homecoming MUWAA Award Reception will be held directly following Convocation on April 2 in the Rent Atrium of Whitfield Hall. All Board members are encouraged to attend this celebration of our Award and Grant winners.

100th Night was held on February 4, 2016, to honor the graduating seniors 100 days before Graduation Day. The R&R Committee chose to repeat the Hot Chocolate +

Sweets Station. The gift for the students this year was a blue tumbler with a University Relations approved logo of Ody the Owl designed by committee member, Laura Tubb Prestwich. The survey from the students indicated that if the event is held during the evening meal time, then they would prefer that dinner be served. Currently the R&R Committee budget does not have enough funds to provide dinner. The R&R Committee suggests that either the event time of the 100th Night be changed or that alumni sponsors be approached and asked to donate money to this and other R&R Committee hosted campus events to provide a better experience.

Chapters & Constituencies – Katy Canion Pacelli, Chair, reported that the Board approved the change to the Chapter Guidelines to read: “All officers should be active members of the MUW Alumni Association and will be elected by a majority vote of membership at an annual meeting.” She reported that The Back to Blue membership drive was very successful and yielded a 20% increase in dues paying members. The number of alumni who are active for 2016 is 1,618. Also of note – 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 PR Committee issued a press release touting the great increase in numbers. President Tate thanked Amy for the outstanding work in leading our Alumni Board members and our chapters to reach out and increase the number of active alumni.

Special Events – Kristi Hipp Mosley, Chair, reported that the online auction was held from March 14th – March 25th. The Long Blue Line Silent Auction will be held tonight (April 1) from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Shattuck Hall. She encouraged all Board members to attend and to bid on several items. She reported an increase in the number of items donated to the auction this year (135 compared to 116 last year). The Special Events Committee thanked the Long Blue Line Event Donors. President Tate thanked Kristi and her committee members for all their diligent work for this special project.

Finance – Malinda Mabry-Scott, Treasurer of the MUWAA, reported that some moneys were transferred from one account to another and that \$19,000.00 was moved into the Legacy Scholarship Fund. Another \$3,000.00 was moved from the Southern Grace Fund to the Culinary Arts Scholarship Fund. The Legacy Scholarship Fund and the Faculty Awards Fund were combined to simplify bookkeeping for the MUW Foundation.

Public Relations – Elizabeth Yoste Whittington, Chair, reported that her committee issued a press release on the Long Blue Line Auction and has encouraged both The Spectator and The Commercial Dispatch to feature the auction in stories. The committee will issue press releases on the Alumni Award recipients; the Faculty Award and Faculty Grant winners; the new MUWAA Board members and the President-Elect of the MUWAA. She urged all of the Board members to encourage their friends attending Homecoming to attend the reception honoring the Alumni Award winners. The PR Committee purchased a half-page ad for \$126.00 in The Spectator Homecoming edition to welcome alumni back to Homecoming and to promote membership in the MUWAA. It has also purchased a quarter page ad for the Graduation issue in May. The committee continues to use Facebook as an outreach campaign to introduce the new MUWAA

Board members, engage alumni, and promote the MUWAA. The PR Committee released the first quarterly Back to Blue email newsletter with help from President Tate and Lyndsay Cumberland in the Alumni Office on March 8th. President Tate thanked Elizabeth for her time of service on the Board and for the innovative media programs used by her committee to publicize outstanding and positive information regarding the University.

Former Presidents – No formal report as Sherri Jackson Cooper, Chair, was unable to attend due to a death in her family. Dr. Borsig and the University are hosting a breakfast for the former MUWAA Presidents and the former MUW Foundation Chairs at the President's home on Saturday, April 1, 2016.

VIII. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Southern Grace Committee – Courtney Ballard Murtaugh, Chair, reported that the committee recommends that the remaining inventory (approximately 1400 copies) of the Southern Grace cookbooks be given as gifts to graduates who walk and turn in their cap and gown; new faculty members; Welty Gala speakers; graduation speakers; and other VIP's. Barbara Austin suggested that the MUWAA put 10 copies of the cookbook in the MUW Archives. Courtney and Lyndsay will follow up on this action item.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Brandy Burnette, Chair of Bylaws, explained the proposed Bylaws changes in regards to elections and the write-in candidate provision. Brandy moved that the red-line changes in the Bylaws document be approved as presented. Courtney Murtaugh second. The motion carried.

Jenny Katool, Chair of Nominations, moved that Rebecca Rogers, Class of 2001, fill Courtney Ballard Murtaugh's unexpired term (2 remaining years) for the Class of 2018 as Courtney has become President-Elect. Malinda Mabry-Scott seconded. The motion carried.

X. NEW BUSINESS

President Tate moved that the MUWAA continue as a 501(c)3 organization to continue our tax exempt status. The motion carried.

Malinda Mabry-Scott, Treasurer, presented the proposed budget for 2016 – 2017. It was noted that the Legacy Scholarship Fund Expense of \$2,500.00 was deleted as this scholarship is now funded by car tag sales. Malinda also noted that the funding in the Activities Fund Expense Account is being depleted at a rapid pace and the MUWAA

Board of Directors should be thinking of means of generating new sources of income to replenish this account. Jenny Katool moved to approve the budget with the addition of \$1,000.00 for the New Faculty of the Year Award which had been deleted by mistake. The motion carried.

XI. OPEN FORUM

President Tate welcomed all of the guests to the Board meeting and asked for comments.

Beverly Koch Jones, former President of the MUWAA, expressed her concerns regarding the MUWAA's inability to raise funds to replenish the Activities Fund Account in order to pay for the Alumni and Faculty Awards that the Alumni Association gives each year. She feels that these awards are the Alumni Association's way of showing appreciation for not only our alumni who have been leaders for the university and in their chosen professions, but also to continue to encourage our faculty to be the best that they can be.

XII. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING COMMENTS/ADJOURN

President Amy Tate expressed her heart-felt thanks for all the support that she has been given during her term as President of the MUWAA. She said that the legacy of this Board will be the increase of active alumni membership by 20% and also the positive changes that were enacted for the nominations and the election processes. She thanked all the outgoing Board members, Barbara Austin; Jenny Katool; Donna Marrero; Wanda Ray; Elizabeth Whittington; and Troy Lewis for their dedicated service to the MUWAA Board of Directors for the past three (3) years. President Tate extended a welcome to the new Board members.

The oath was administered to the President-Elect and incoming Board members.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Sue Simmons Freeman, Secretary

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2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' SPRING MEETING**

Cochran Hall
Friday, April 1, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The spring quarterly meeting of the Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association 2016 – 2017 Board of Directors was held on the MUW campus at Cochran Hall on April 1, 2016, at 3:07 p.m. with President Deborah Stockman Hodges presiding. A quorum was present. President Hodges called the meeting to order.

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

Deborah Stockman Hodges, President	Sue Simmons Freeman, Secretary
Courtney Ballard Murtaugh, President-Elect	Wesley H. Garrett, Parliamentarian
Amy Strickland Tate, Past President	Erica W. Woodard, Treasurer
Malinda Mabry-Scott	Brandy Burnette
Chris Halbrooks	Carrie V. Pate
Sunshine Burgess	Kristi Hipp Mosley
Carolyn Wilson Byrd	Melissa Hays Gilmore
Kristie Metcalfe	Pam Towery Rhea
Heather Fasciocco Stone	

MUW Alumni Association Board Members absent:

Katherine Shell Benson
Mr. Ralph W. McLain, Foundation Chair

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

Lyndsay B. Cumberland, Director of Alumni Relations

Guests present:

Erin Gioia	Katy Canion Pacelli
Elizabeth Whittington	Barbara Austin
Jenny Katool	

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Malinda Mabry-Scott moved to adopt the agenda. Chris Halbrooks seconded. The motion carried.

III. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

President Hodges welcomed the returning Board members and the new Board members and said she was looking forward to working with them, the alumni, the administration, the faculty, and friends of the University to further the interests of MUW.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Parliamentarian - President Hodges moved that Wesley H. Garrett be approved as Parliamentarian. Motion carried.

Election of Officers:

President Hodges moved that Erica W. Woodard be approved as Treasurer. Motion carried.

President Hodges moved that Sue Simmons Freeman be approved as Secretary. Motion carried.

Election of Nominating Committee – The following alumni were nominated to serve on the committee: Barbara Jones Nelson '86; Laurie Hawkins Teague '71, Elizabeth Whittington '00; Erin Gioia '07; Terry G. Coffey '85; and Clemmie Phillips '11.

Amy Strickland Tate will chair the committee as Immediate Past President of the Alumni Association.

The vote was taken by written ballot with instructions to vote for four (4). After the ballots were counted, the following received the highest number of votes: Barbara Jones Nelson, Laurie Hawkins Teague, Elizabeth Whittington, and Erin Gioia.

Board Approval of Committee Appointments – Amy Strickland Tate, Nominations Committee Chair, moved that the Board accept the Committee appointments as presented with one (1) change to remove Heather F. Stone from the Public Relations Committee. The motion carried.

Amy also encouraged all Board members to think of ways to get young alums 5 – 8 years removed from graduation more involved in the Alumni Association.

V. PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS

President Hodges reiterated that she is looking forward to working with all the Board members during her term and that the Board has a great deal to accomplish over the next year.

She outlined her plan of action during her term of 2016-2017 as follows.

1. Increase membership of the Alumni Association by working with Alumni Chapters; identifying Constituency Groups that can connect to The W; and increase attendance at Homecoming and other University events.
2. Continue to identify and refer students to MUW.
3. Continue to fund the MUWAA scholarships and awards, and at the same time develop a long range plan to endow the awards.
4. Execute an effective financial plan including budgeting and income.
5. Develop strategic goals for the Alumni Association in support of the University's recently announced initiative.
6. Continue to be responsive to the requests of Mississippi University for Women.

President Hodges announced that the summer Board meeting will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2016. The new Board members will have orientation an hour prior to the scheduled meeting. Committee reports are next due on Monday, July 18, 2016.

Other scheduled meetings are as follows.

Saturday, October 22, 2016 (Welty Weekend)
Saturday, January 28, 2017
Friday, March 24, 2017 (Homecoming)

Other committee reports are due as follows.

Monday, October 10, 2016
Monday, January 16, 2017
Monday, March 13, 2017

President Hodges reminded the Committee Chairs to submit a list of their committee members to her by April 18, 2016.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Sue Simmons Freeman, Secretary