

**MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
FALL BOARD MEETING**

Hybrid: In-Person at Fant Library and Zoom Call, 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 23, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Katherine Shell Benson called the Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association (MUWAA) meeting to order at 2:14 p.m.

The roll was called.

MUWAA Board Members present In-Person were:

Katherine Shell Benson, President

Symone Bounds, President- Elect

Rebecca Rogers, Immediate Past President

Jenny Katool, MUW Foundation Representative

Wesley H. Garrett, Parliamentarian

Monique Jenkins

Michelle Wescovich

Kym Golden Gore

Ashley Dean

MUWAA Board Members present by Teleconference were:

LuAnne Farrar McGuirk, Secretary

Jermarra Jones-Price

Troy Lewis

Robbie Foxx

Bridget Smith Ellis

Lydia Coffey Pierce

Barbara Black Travis

Christie Jones Lawrence

MUWAA Board Members absent:

Jane Izard Turner

Kacey Keaton

Nicholas Wright

A quorum was established.

Ex-Officio Members present:

Andrea Stevens, Director of Alumni Relations and Donor Engagement

Guests:

Hillary Richardson, Coordinator of MUW Undergraduate Research

Katy Canion Pacelli, *Class of 2000*; Brandon, MS

Amy Oeth, *Class of 1987*, Jackson, MS

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Rebecca Rogers made a motion to adopt the agenda as written. Quorum was met via affirmative vote and roll call with 16 eligible voting members approving the motion and the motion carried.

III. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

President Benson welcomed all attendees to the hybrid meeting and thanked everyone for attending. She shared thoughts from her childhood regarding her mother's expectations for her learning and growth as a child. She stated that her mother always wanted her to find the meaning in what she was doing. Madame President encouraged the Board to think of the "big picture" of being on the Board. She wanted to encourage everyone to think of how MUWAA relates to life.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Benson called Hilary Richardson from the Office of Undergraduate Research to speak on the OUR Scholarship. She discussed what her department does and how they help students with their research. The students can use the OUR Scholarship to support ongoing, potential, or established research. The scholarship can be used for fees, travel, equipment, etc. Students in the program work with mentors who support them in the summer and throughout the year. Ms. Richardson discussed the number of students the scholarship would impact. She also discussed the Tier options- more students versus bigger effect. She discussed that the maximum ideal number of students would be 10-12. Ashley Dean made a motion to fund Tier 1. Katherine Shell Benson called for discussion. There was clarification from Rebecca Rogers. Katherine Shell Benson called for a vote. The motion passed with 14 out of 16 votes via in-person and online.

V. RATIFY VOTES

There were votes from electronic communications that needed to be ratified:

- On August 16, 2021, there was a vote to approve the summer 2021 Board meeting minutes. The vote passed with 13 of 19 voting in favor.

- On September 1, 2021, there was a vote to approve the committee list. The vote passed with 14 of 19 voting in favor.

VI. ALUMNI OFFICE REPORT

Andrea Stevens, Director of Alumni Relations and Donor Engagement, gave a report of the donor count as of June 30. The number of donors was 2630 donors. She hopes the donors will increase. The amount donated was \$3,620,078. Ms. Stevens really wants to increase number of donors this next year. The Foundation awarded scholarships to 728 students. There have been several chapter meetings in the past few months. There have been two graduations and many more events. There are also several events planned in the future.

VII. MUWAA OFFICER'S REPORT

Parliamentarian

Wesley Garrett, Board Parliamentarian, had nothing to report at this time.

Secretary

LuAnne Farrar McGuirk, Board Secretary, had nothing to report at this time.

Treasurer

Jane IZard Turner, Board Treasurer, was absent. Katherine Shell Benson referred the Board to the report in their packets. Monique Jenkins asked a question and Rebecca Rogers clarified that the funds approved at the previous Board Meeting to be transferred to a new endowment fund for the LBL UR Scholarship was missing from the total fund balances. A line item will be added to the report for the added Endowed fund.

The updated balances will be reflective of these numbers. Andrea Stevens will get the document updated.

VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations/Elections

Rebecca Rogers, Chair, had no new activity to report yet. The nomination period will open December 15, 2021. There might be a possible presentation for board members and committees.

Bylaws

Kym Golden Gore, Chair, shared that Mrs. Benson wanted the committee to look at the year change that was made last year (from calendar to fiscal). Because of this change, the

by-laws will need to be updated to reflect this vote/change. There was much discussion about the wording and possible confusion for members if members needed to vote again. It was decided that the wording of the by-laws can be updated to reflect this change because it was the intent of the previous membership vote.

Recruitment & Retention

Lydia Coffey Pierce, Chair, reported that the committee met through e-mail. They discussed the new faculty luncheon. Covid caused the luncheon to not be in-person, but the committee awarded gifts to all 18 new faculty members.

Chapters & Constituencies

Monique Jenkins, Chair, reported that her committee decided to host the workshop in conjunction with the January Board meeting on January 22nd at 10:00 am. They will be working with other committees to promote this event. She stated that the committee is now tasked with finding speakers. She hopes there are some possible new constituency groups and chapters.

Special Events

Katy Canion Pacelli, Chair, stated that her committee is trying to find a date for the LBL Auction in the future. The committee all discussed having another fully online auction due to the success of the last one. Her committee would like to make a recommendation to permanently move the LBL Auction to the last full weekend of September instead of during Homecoming. Mrs. Pacelli presented this as a recommendation. Monique Jenkins made a motion to approve as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance

Jane IZard Turner, Chair, was not present. The report is in the packet.

Public Relations-Print

Amy Oeth, Chair, presented the report for the committee. She stated she is excited to continue sharing stories about the scholarship recipients.

Past Presidents

In place of Kristi Hipp Mosley, Katy Canion Pacelli presented the report for the committee. The group was tasked with thinking of and presenting more fundraiser ideas. Katy presented an idea for a fundraiser called "Magnolia Mingle." According to the motion presented by Kristi Hipp Mosley in the packets presented, she would like to table the motion and then vote by e-mail. Katy asked for questions or discussion. There was some clarification provided.

IX. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Diversity and Inclusion

Jermarra Jones-Price, Chair, reported that the committee has been working hard. The committee started with looking through the alumnae survey from last year. She stated that they have been working on what could be on the next survey. The plan is to finalize a date for the survey to go out. In September, JJ met with the Diversity and Inclusion committee of the University. The goal is to work in conjunction with the University at Homecoming for more inclusive events. JJ also gave shout-outs to her committee members.

Membership Recruitment

Ashley Dean, Chair, reported that the committee made sure that MUWAA was present at the recent graduations. Katherine and Rebecca gave out tumblers to new graduates. Ashley wants there to be a “membership drive” coming soon. She encouraged her committee to think of why alums should be involved.

Mentoring

Kacey Keaton, Chair, was absent. Her report can be found in the provided materials. The BLUE Event will be held February 10, 2022.

Digital Marketing

Bridget Smith Ellis, Chair, shared the committee has been working with other committees to look for ways to promote the MUWAA. She also stated the committee has helped with logos and materials for promotional ideas. Her committee wants to continue to highlight different groups of alums and members of campus. Bridget and Amy have been working together so their committees can help each other.

Strategy and Support

Symone Bounds, Chair, reported that her committee has been very busy working to accomplish their goals. Currently, the committee is working on a MUWAA branding guide. Her committee is also wanting to help other committees know how to work with new members as they transition from student to alum and from non-member to member.

X. OPEN FORUM

Andrea Stevens stated she has books mentioned during the Archives presentation if needed. Monique stated she is proud of the work the Board is doing. Kym Golden Gore asked if we want to do an email vote regarding the OUR Scholarship in relation to the policy and procedures. Andrea Stevens clarified some wording and answered questions about the timing of endowments becoming self-sustaining. Rebecca Rogers added that

using funds from the restricted account in the interim would make awarding the new scholarship possible prior to the endowment maturing.

XIII. CLOSING COMMENTS

President Benson closed by saying thank you to all the Board. She is awarding two gold stars: to JJ Price for being organized and to Kacey Keaton for getting her items turned in.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.