

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

Hybrid: In-Person at Fant Library and Zoom Call, 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 17, 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 1:46 p.m.

The roll was called. MUWAA Board Members present In-Person were:

Katherine Shell Benson, President
Symone Bounds, President- Elect
Wesley H. Garrett, Parliamentarian
Rebecca Rogers, Immediate Past President
Jenny Katool, MUW Foundation Representative
Monique Jenkins
Jane IZard Tuner
Kacey Keaton
Troy Lewis
Robbie Foxx
Bridget Smith Ellis
Michelle Wescovich
Kym Golden Gore
Nicholas Wright

MUWAA Board Members present by Teleconference were:

LuAnne Farrar McGuirk
Jermarra Jones-Price
Ashley Dean

MUWAA Board Members absent:

Barbara Black Travis
Christie Jones Lawrence
Lydia Coffey Pierce

A quorum was established.

Ex-Officio Members present:

Lyndsay B. Cumberland, Director of Alumni Relations and Donor Engagement

Guests:

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

Andrea Stevens, *Class of 1992*; Columbus, MS

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

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Katherine Shell Benson made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented with one change. The discussion of the allocation of Auction proceeds will be discussed during unfinished business. 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 welcomed everyone and asked all members to remember their “why” by thinking of the reason we are all here. The hardships of being a volunteer were discussed. Madame President encouraged all Board members to connect with other MUW alumnae and recruit others. She continued to discuss how the Board needs to continue to think of the joy that comes with serving as part of the Long Blue Line.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

There were five points of new business presented:

- President Benson made a motion to approve Wesley Garret as Parliamentarian for this Board year. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Rebecca Rogers nominated Jane Izard-Turner as Board treasurer for this year. President Benson called for other nominations. There were none. The nomination was approved unanimously.
- Rebecca Rogers nominated LuAnne Farrar-McGuirk as Board secretary for this year. President Benson called for other nominations. There were none. The nomination was approved unanimously.
- The Board was then tasked with electing the Nominations and Elections Committee via a survey from Lyndsay Cumberland. All surveys were completed, and the new members are as follows: Rebecca Rogers as Chair, Brandy Burnette, Shelly Morris Davis, Carrie Pate, Austin Rayford. Lesley Norwood Davis will serve as an alternate.

- President Benson discussed the rules for committee members and chairs. A vote was taken to approve the committee chairs only. The motion was approved unanimously.
- The budget was presented with a consideration of the amount for the LBLA software being slightly higher. The motion to approve the budget for 2021-2022 was presented by Rebecca Rogers and approved unanimously.

V. RATIFY VOTES

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

- On May 28, 2021, there was a vote to approve the spring 2021 Board meeting minutes. The vote passed with 13 of 19 voting in favor.
- On May 28, 2021, there was a vote to approve the fundraising guide. The vote passed with 13 of 19 voting in favor.

VI. ALUMNI OFFICE REPORT

Lyndsay Cumberland, Director of Alumni Relations and Donor Engagement, began by reminding everyone to sign their Conflict of Interest forms. Through the Reconnect campaign there were 63 people who used the link. There was over \$6000 raised. The campaign helped to recruit 37 members for the alumnae association.

Mrs. Cumberland was excited to share that Homecoming 2021 will be August 26-29th and for the most part will be outside or held within large spaces. She mentioned that the schedule will be smaller, class years ending in zero, one, five and six will be celebrated, special year celebrations for some of our Greek Letter and Social Club organizations will be recognized, Saturday would look more like an outdoor party where everyone would be able to get together and hang out, the retirement party for Dr. Bridget Pieschel will be held and a celebration to highlight the basketball team winning their first National Championship.

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, presented the report.

There is a total balance of \$255,496.56 across all account balances as follows:

Restricted Accounts:

Alumni Association Activities Fund (26062)	\$15,572.63
Long Blue Line Auction Fund (26108)	\$48,866.36
Mortar Board Faculty of the Year Award Fund (28107)	\$2,000.00
MUW Faculty Enhancements Grants Fund (28108)	\$676.07
MUW New Faculty of the Year Award Fund (28109)	\$1,651.00
BLUE Event Fund	\$5,161.83

Endowed Accounts:

Culinary Arts Advisory Board Scholarship (35287)	\$26,073.32
Southern Grace Scholarship (36062)	\$47,876.81
MUWAA Faculty Enhancement Grants (36109)	\$14,680.46
MUWAA Mortar Board Faculty of the Year Award (36110)	\$10,042.41
MUWAA New Faculty of the Year Award	\$15,854.65
MUW Legacy Scholarship Endowed	\$67,041.02

VIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations/Elections

Rebecca Rogers discussed the new process for nominations and elections. The Board will receive an information packet before each vote.

Bylaws

Kym Golden Gore, Chair, shared that there were new copies of the Bylaws in each member's packet. This was a result of the work done by the committee in the past year.

Recruitment & Retention

Lydia Coffey Pierce, Chair, was not present. President Katherine Shell Benson gave the report in her absence. The scholarships awarded in the spring were presented to the Board. The scholarship recipients for the academic year of 2021-2022 have been named and are as follows: Legacy Scholarship is Emma Grace Alexander, Columbus, MS, Freshman, Major Undecided. The Southern Grace Scholarship: Megan Beard, Brandon, MS, Senior, Culinary Arts Major. The Culinary Arts Advisory Board Scholarship is Rachel Harris, Columbus, MS, Sophomore, Culinary Arts Major.

Chapters & Constituencies

Monique Jenkins, Chair, thanked the past chair, Ashley Dean, for having all reports updated and completed. The committee was successful in obtaining and updating almost all the contact information for the chapters and constituency groups. 18 groups submitted their end of year reports on time. The committee hopes to present another workshop in the spring.

Special Events

Katy Canion Pacelli, Chair, began her report with appreciation for the previous committee and all the hard work they put into the LBLA. The option for a new software program was mentioned. The committee will be researching multiple options. Mrs. Pacelli presented information on the sale of the Scout bags from LBLA as well.

Finance

Jane IZard Turner, Chair, presented the finance report. She discussed the members on the committee and the goals for the year.

Public Relations-Print

Annie Oeth, Chair, presented the report for the committee. She thanked the previous chair and committee members. Ms. Oeth discussed that since April the Board has been making phone calls and sending emails to maintain communication. She pointed out that the committee has now been split between print and digital marketing.

Past Presidents

In place of Kristi Hipp Mosley, Chair, President Katherine Shell Benson presented the report. She shared that this committee has been tasked with creating a fundraiser that is celebratory in addition to the Long Blue Auction.

IX. SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Diversity and Inclusion

Jermarra Jones-Price, Chair, reported that the committee hosted a workshop for the Board of Directors. The committee has also worked with the Chapters and Constituency Groups committee to help new groups form. The Board has also worked to accomplish all the goals from the last year. One goal for the new year is to work on the Friends Video Challenge for Homecoming.

Membership Recruitment

Ashley Dean, Chair, reported that the committee participated in giving gifts to graduates and getting updated contact information. The committee will continue to participate in these events.

Mentoring

Kacey Keaton, Chair, reported that her committee was previously led by Christie Jones Lawrence in the past year. She thanked her and the committee. Ms. Keaton hopes to continue the ideas and events implemented in the last year.

Digital Marketing

Bridget Smith Ellis, Chair, shared that this is a new committee. The previous public relations committee was split to create two committees. This committee will be working with a focus on social media and email communication.

Strategy and Support

Symone Bounds, Chair, thanked the previous committee and chair. Ms. Bounds mentioned she has not had a meeting yet but plans to send out information to her committee soon. The goals for the year are to work closely with the University and current President of the MUWAA Board.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Past President Rebecca Rogers shared the details of the New Fund for Undergraduate Research Grant again with the Board. She explained the discussion that had previously taken place at the last Board meeting. Ms. Rogers explained that the MUWAA Board of Directors approved the creation of a 4th MUWAA student scholarship and corresponding restricted fund within the MUW Foundation to be called the **Long Blue Line Undergraduate Research Scholarship**. This would be awarded to one deserving student annually beginning with the 2021-2022 school year following final determination of amount and selection criteria in coordination with the MUW Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR). The details of the fund and the possible tiers were shared again as well. After sharing the information with the Board again, Ms. Rogers reminded the Board of the tabled motion in the spring. The motion was tabled because the Board wanted to know the proceeds of the LBLA first. The Board was reminded that they must vote on the tabled motion before they can proceed. The motion on the table put forth by Monique Jenkins from the spring is to award \$1000. There was much discussion on this before voting. After discussion, the motion from the spring was voted on and did not pass.

A new motion was presented by President Katherine Shell Benson with the following criteria:

Allocate proceeds from the 2021 Long Blue Line Auction by moving the following dollar amounts to other MUWAA restricted and endowed as outlined below:

\$11,000 to Activities Fund (26062)

\$1000 to Enhancement Grants Restricted Fund (28108)

\$1000 to New Faculty Restricted Fund (28109)

\$242.27 to Enhancement Grants Endowment Fund (to fully endow) (36109)

\$10,242.49 to Mortar Board Endowment to fully endow (36110)

\$242.52 New Faculty Endowment Fund to fully endow (36111)

\$15,000 LBL UR Scholarship Endowment Fund (38116)

Be it noted: this will leave \$10,138.88 in the LBLA Fund.

This motion was then voted on and passed unanimously.

Madame President suggested that the Board will hear the OUR presentation again in October before deciding as to what Tier to fund.

XI. OPEN FORUM

Nick Wright asked how the Board decides what area of campus to support. President Benson expressed that if a group asks for funding, the Board will hear them out and decide.

Lyndsay Cumberland shared her appreciation for the Board and let the Board know that she will be moving and will no longer be at MUW. During the transition, Andrea Stevens will be the Office of Development and Alumni contact.

XIII. CLOSING COMMENTS

President Benson closed by saying thank you to all the Board. She especially thanked Rebecca Rogers for leading the Reconnect campaign. She also thanked Ashley Dean and Bridget Smith Ellis for having their committees totally filled by the deadline.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.