

MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Winter Board Meeting

January 25, 2026

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Ashley Dean called the Mississippi University for Women Alumni Association (MUWAA) meeting to order at 11:27AM

MUWAA Board Members present via Zoom:

- Jonathan Cumberland
- Ashley Dean
- J'Markus Dubose
- Anne White Foster
- Wesley House Garrett
- Andrea Germany
- Clare Haefner
- Trey Harper
- Deborah Hodges
- Dana Jackson
- Jermarra Jones-Price
- Elysa Harvey Maclellan
- Carrie Niemet
- Annie Oeth
- Bridget Pieschel
- Sydney Pittman
- Nicole Rensink
- Debra Sturgis Stamps
- Terri Stewart
- Bayleigh Vick

MUWAA Board Members absent:

None were absent.

Guests:

- Troy Lewis
- LeAnn Alexander
- Kristen Pate

Ex-Officio Members present:

- Cathryn Vaughn Borer, Director of Alumni Relations and Donor Engagement

II. Adoption of the Agenda

President Ashley Dean called for a motion from the floor to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion to adopt the agenda was presented by Clare Haefner. The motion passed with 19 of 19 board members approving.

III. President's Welcome

Ashley welcomed all of us to the Winter Board meeting. The Winter Board meeting is for us to pause and reflect on the progress we have made in the 2025-2026 Board Year. While also looking ahead to the remainder of the Board Year that is intended for alumni and students. Thanked all board members for their willingness to lead, collaborate, and grow together to support the Alumni Association.

IV. Ratify Votes

Since the Fall 2025 Board Meeting three electronic votes have been held. No new votes were required for this meeting.

- Fall 2025 board meeting minutes approved by email on November 15th with 19 out of 19 votes in favor.
- Fund transfer from Long Blue Line Auction Fund to MUWAA Activities Fund approved by email on November 23rd with 19 out of 19 votes in favor.
- Fund reclassification from insurance policy to Homecoming Whoava event app approved by email on November 23rd with all 19 out of 19 votes in favor.

V. Alumni Office Report

Cathryn Vaughn Borer Class of 2004 presented the following Alumni Office report:

Homecoming registration is live with the early bird special available. The legislative dinner went very well, and the legislators praised our students and recent stats. Hogarth student center has been renovated and opening next week on Feb 4th. It will feature new theater/screening and homework spaces for students. MUW websites are going to be updated and must be ADA compliant by April 1, 2026.

VI. Foundation Report

Deborah Hodges Class of 1990 presented the following:

Celebrated Elise Wilson into her new role of Executive Director of Development and Alumni. The foundation is doing well and making good strides for the coming year. The professional development office is successfully placing graduates in the workforce. Contributions continue to be good, but they can improve. Encouraging recent graduates and alumni to contribute what they can each month to help give back to the W.

VII. MUWAA Officer Reports

Parliamentarian

Wesley House Garrett had nothing to report for Parliamentarian.

Secretary

Nicole Rensink had nothing to report for the Office of Secretary.

Treasurer

Dana Jackson presented the following report:

Ensuring the funds from the Long Blue Line auction were reallocated to the activities fund as per the recent vote. Quarter end reports were not available for the board meeting. Provided financial reports are through September 2025.

VII. Standing Committee Reports

Nominations & Elections \ Chair Jermarra Jones-Price

Jermarra presented the following report:

Election for the new Board Class are open, but close on January 25. A total of 17 nominations were received. Six nominees were not eligible due to unpaid dues or working for the University. Eleven nominees were eligible but only eight accepted. Seven in the running for Board of Directions and one for President-Elect. Post-elections plans include working with Public Relations to prepare the press release for newly elected Board Members and the announcement of them.

Bylaws \ Chair Debra Sturgis Stamps

Debra presented the following report:

The committee is going to review the 2021 Fall Board minutes along with current policies and procedures to incorporate Long Blue Line Auction and possible MUWAA Annual Fundraisers/Events to a new appendix to the Policies and Procedures.

Recruitment & Retention \ Chair LeAnn Alexander

LeAnn presented the following report:

Alumni awards were posted and sent out. Now moving towards faculty awards and Dr. Tolleson was notified and working on it. Getting ready for homecoming and recognition of alumni award winners. We are coordinating with digital marketing committee to make announcements through social media and official channels. Congratulations to committee members Dr. Holmes, Dr. Sullivan, and Mr. Stapleton for passing all required exams and classes to become Dr.'s and a certified teacher.

Chapters & Constituency Groups \ Chair Ariel Seawell

Ariel was absent but her report is listed below from the packet:

Plan was to start social media blasting in this new year to increase the traffic for starting up new groups and keeping existing groups up and running.

Goals

1. Continue to maintain contact and up-to-date information on existing groups.
2. Increase traffic to the Google Form to establish new groups.
3. Encourage alumni participation in localized/digital group settings.

Special Events \ Chair Kristen Pate

Kristen presented the following report:

Fundraising success with Long Blue Line Auctions at \$26,000, with hopes to add an intern to assist with the Long Blue Line Auction with those applications going out in April. A Co-Chair has been decided to be added, and Pooja has agreed to be Co-Chair. Working on Magnolia Mingle with the GiveSmart link for ticket sales going live on February 1 to maximize outreach for tickets for the draw down. The theme for Magnolia Mingle this year is "Southern Decadence," blue ribbon style combining country with a touch of class. We could see BBQ, local honeys, etc. The drink of Magnolia Mingle was decided as the "Steel Magnolia." Collaboration with digital marketing and public relations for social media post launching ticket purchases to achieve the largest ticket sales to date.

Finance \ Dana Jackson

Dana presented the following report:

Contacting finance committee members to discuss budget changes and align on processes moving forward. The check request has been reviewed that are related to the report. Timing discrepancies are in check submissions across quarters. Ashley, Cathryn, Bailey, and Dana will review the budget post-meeting.

Public Relations \ Troy Lewis

Troy presented the following report:

Three news releases were created for alumni award winners. Three of the four winners reviewed their releases. The final review is waiting from the winner. Final releases will be sent to Cathryn and Ashley. Multiple committee members are actively working on news releases, with some details being published already. Full news releases are in progress. Additional work for Magnolia Mingle and other committees are in the works.

Past Presidents \ Heather Fascio Stone

Heather was absent but her report is listed below from the packet:

- Chair personally called each of the 40+ Past Presidents to introduce self as the new chair, invite to the Past President Brunch/Welty Gala, and invite them to participate in the new Homecoming tradition "Pass-the-Gavel".

- Chair and Committee will kick-off the new year with a welcome letter to MUWAA Past Presidents sharing 2025-2026 engagement and participation opportunities like B.L.U.E. Sponsorship, PP Fund amount, how to give to various funds, and Pucket House refresh campaign preview, Pass the Gavel and more.
- On 10/25/25, Committee hosted an MUWAA Past President Brunch in Welty Hall Atrium followed by exclusive Nursing Department Tour. Ten past presidents participated.

Goals and Progress:

1. Involve Past Presidents in continuing the refresh of the Puckett House > In Process
2. Host a Past Presidents Brunch to foster connection and recognition > Complete.
3. Refresh and restock the Homecoming ribbons > In Process
4. Plan and coordinate the Gavel Pass of Past Presidents during Convocation > Planned.

Next Steps:

- Committee received Homecoming Ribbon inventory from Alumni Office. Committee will digitize the inventory list for future use and identify existing ribbon re-order needs and new ribbon additions. Potential alumni survey to facilitate the latter.
- Committee beginning Puckett House Refresh Campaign with soft good wish list & campaign letter, campaign naming and launch in time for Homecoming.

X. Special Committee Reports

Membership Recruitment \ Chair Annie Oath

Annie gave the following report:

The alumni Line Dancing competition is set up for homecoming. LeAnn Alexander will lead the event again. Everyone is encouraged to sign up, watch, or participate. The “Why Do You W” campaign is scheduled for after homecoming because of the momentum from homecoming. Participants for that should send a short video explain why the W is meaningful to them.

Mentoring \ Chair Bridget Pischel

Bridget gave the following report:

Plan to host the B.L.U.E event with a networking focusing on student professional development. There will be a diverse panel of speakers for students going into different professions such as authors, teachers, women in education, CEO of different companies. This will allow students to feel inspired to feel successful and happy by exploring different career directions. Event is scheduled for February 19th at 6PM in Pope. A registration link is live for registration.

Strategy & Support \ Chair Bayleigh Vick

Bayleigh presented the following report:

We have been approved for the Whove App usage for homecoming 2026 for piloting. Partnering with digital marketing to campaign the app via social media. Alumni will self-enter personal information no data will be input by the Alumni Office. Hopefully that the social media campaign will have people download the app and register.

The One MUW Committee \ Sonny Lemmons

Sonny was absent but his report from his packet stated:

Goals and Progress

1. Continue to develop and host the One MUW Speaker Series, providing meaningful engagement opportunities for the MUWAA Board of Directors, alumni, and students.
2. Present and promote a slate of alumni award nominees for the inaugural cohort of The W G.U.I.L.D., adhering to the early August nominations submission timeline. → Completed
3. Collaborate with the MUWAA Public Relations and Digital Marketing Committees to enhance digital recognition and visibility of The W G.U.I.L.D. Alumni Program. → In progress

Next Steps:

- Work with the Digital Marketing Committee to advertise 2025 W Guild class bios ahead of HoCo 2026.
- Collaborate with Public Relations Committee to prepare an article of 2025 W Guild class.

Digital Marketing \ Chair Clare Haefner

Clare presented the following report:

Gearing up post for B.L.U.E and Homecoming for social media. Board results from elections to be announced soon. Committees are asked to provide event ideas soon for scheduling. Committee is working on a survey to gather input on social media platform use. They are aiming to decide on continuing to post on X or starting on Blue Sky or other platforms. Survey is planned for the spring to inform decisions and launch plans.

XI. Unfinished Business

Discussed talking about next steps for the MUWAA since the fulfillment of Shattuck fund was completed this board year. It was decided to table it until the Spring. There is no motion on the table, only discussion.

XII. New Business

Kristen Pate introduced the topic regarding the Magnolia Mingle Committee Composition. The committee recommended that the MUWAA Board of Directors accept the Magnolia Mingle Special Events Committee Co-Chairs and Members. A motion was made by Bridget Smith- Pieschel to accept the committee's recommendation. Nicole completed the roll call

vote with the motion passing for the Magnolia Mingle Committee with 19/19 board members voting in favor.

XII. Open Forum

There were no open forum comments.

XIV. President's Closing Comments

Thanked everyone for their commitment and energy for today's Winter Board meeting. Wants us to stay connected and uplift the Alumni Community. Encourages to finish the board year strong with movement and projects. Thanks for all 19 voting members being present and contributing to today.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16PM