

**MISSISSIPPI UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
2025 – 2026 STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

STANDING COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
<p>Nominations and Elections Committee Chair: Jermarra Jones-Price Board Office: MUWAA Immediate Past President</p> <p><u>Goals for the 2025-2026 Board Year</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Solicit nominations for all four positions on the Nominations & Elections Committee and present a ballot of no more than 10 candidates for Board selection. 2. Coordinate the nomination and election process for the 2029 class of the MUWAA Board of Directors and the 2026–2027 President-Elect. 	<p>This Committee shall be chaired by the Immediate Past President of the Association. The Board of Directors will elect four voting members of the Association to serve on this Committee, with input from the University’s Director of Alumni Relations. This Committee shall be responsible for identifying, contacting, and nominating at least one candidate for the position of President-elect and every vacant Board directorship from among voting members of the Association.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jermarra Jones-Price (chair) 2. Ryan Ahrens 3. Anghaarad Teague Dees 4. Kim Jobe 5. Tina Morgan 6. Terry Coffey (Alternate)
<p>Bylaws Committee Chair: Debra Stamps</p> <p><u>Goals for the 2025-2026 Board Year</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the bylaws to ensure they reflect the current mission, structure, and operational needs of the Alumni Association, and propose updates as needed. 2. Develop and distribute simplified summaries or FAQs to help board members and alumni better understand key bylaws, especially those related to governance, elections, and committee functions. 3. Examine the Bylaws and Policies & Procedures documents for grammatical accuracy, clear language, and potential 	<p>This Committee is responsible for reviewing the Bylaws and recommending changes when necessary to the Board of Directors and ensuring Policies & Procedures are in keeping with Bylaws.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Debra Stamps (chair) 2. J’Markus Dubose (board) 3. Terry Gargano Coffey 4. Vanita Phinisey 5. Spence Andrews 6. Del Ohms Hamilton

<p>improvements to ensure consistency and clarity across all governing documents.</p>		
<p>Recruitment and Retention Committee Chair: LeAnn Alexander</p> <p><u>Goals for the 2025-2026 Board Year</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adhere to the Policies & Procedures to present and promote a slate of alumni award nominees, meeting the timeline of the first week of November. 2. Partner with the Public Relations and Digital Marketing Committees to elevate digital visibility for Faculty Grant recipients, Student Scholarship winners, and Alumni Award honorees. 3. Research and propose a name change to the MUWAA Board that more accurately reflects the committee's purpose and mission. 	<p>This Committee shall support the University in coordination with the Vice President for Student Services in the University's recruitment and retention of students and faculty. This committee will be responsible for identifying and recognizing the various faculty awards and grants, as well as the scholarships awarded by the Association.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LeAnn Alexander (chair) 2. Nicole Rensink (board) 3. Cydney Archie 4. Lamon Stapleton 5. Deja Harris Townsend 6. TaNaya Bluitt Coks 7. Turquoise Blanks Holmes 8. Kristopher Sullivan
<p>Chapters and Constituency Groups Committee Chair: Ariel Seawell</p> <p><u>Goals for the 2025-2026 Board Year</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand engagement and support the formation of new college and department-based constituency groups. 2. Partner with the Alumni and Development Office to reimagine the 3-day SOAC Lounge during Homecoming as a drop-in hub for new college and social organizations, a resource center for inactive groups, and a connection point to help SOAC reengage social organizations and update contact information. 	<p>This Committee shall work to increase active participation in the Association and shall develop chapters and constituent groups in coordination with the University's Director of Alumni Relations.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ariel Seawell (chair) 2. Anne White Foster (board) 3. Terry Coffey 4. Brandi Pillow 5. Brynn Morgan <p>New Group Formation Sub Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Del Ohms Hamilton 2. Mary Beth Thorman 3. Lyndsay Cumberland 4. Clare Heafner (board)

<p>3. Continue to regularly update all current and active Chapter and Constituency Groups.</p>		
<p>Special Events Committee 2025 LBLA Chair: Kristen Pate 2026 Magnolia Mingle Chair:</p> <p><u>Goals for the 2025-2026 Board Year</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Host Signature Fundraising Events: Plan and execute the 13th Annual Long Blue Line Auction in Fall 2025 and the 5th Annual Magnolia Mingle during Spring 2026 Homecoming. 2. Onboard and utilize a new Long Blue Line Auction Fundraising Intern to assist with planning, inventory management, and coordination of auction items and logistics. 3. Collaborate with the Digital Marketing and Public Relations Committees to launch a post-auction online campaign that highlights unique bidding stories and donor engagement. 	<p>This Committee shall assist in coordinating the participation of Association members in support of formal programs and special activities planned by the Association President or the University. The committee will consult with the University's Director of Alumni Relations regarding these events.</p>	<p>LBL Auction Sub Committee (Fall 2025):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kristen Pate (Chair) 2. Elysa Harvey Maclellan (board) 3. Bridgett Smith Ellis 4. Pooja Shaunak 5. Dustin Nolan 6. Mandy Patrick Brownlee 7. April Sylvia 8. Meagan Backes <p>* Mag Mingle Sub Committee (Spring 2026)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kristen Pate (Chair) 2. Elysa Harvey Maclellan (board) 3. Bridgett Smith Ellis 4. Pooja Shaunak (Co-Chair) 5. Dustin Nolan 6. Mandy Patrick Brownlee 7. April Sylvia 8. Meagan Backes
<p>Finance Committee Chair: Dana Jackson Board Office: MUWAA Treasurer</p> <p><u>Goals for the 2025-2026 Board Year</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide the Board with quarterly updates regarding Association funds and accounts. 2. In accordance with the Bylaws, develop and manage the Association's budget and ensure that the Association complies. 3. Collaborate with the Membership Recruitment Committee to email the general 	<p>This Committee develops and manages a budget for the Association and ensures that the Association complies with the provisions in the Affiliation Agreement related to finance.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dana Jackson (chair) 2. Terri Stewart (board) 3. Sunshine Bradshaw Burgess 4. Shelia Wendt Vickery 5. Madeline Gardiner

<p>membership with information about giving categories and how to support the Association.</p>		
<p>Public Relations Committee Chair: Troy Lewis</p> <p><u>Goals for the 2025-2026 Board Year</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote MUWAA annual, special, and committee-led events, as well as award recipients, through press releases and print advertising, with a focus on outlets like The Long Blue Line Magazine. 2. Continue utilizing print advertisements and guest authorship opportunities in The Spectator, especially to highlight the Board year kickoff and Homecoming activities. 3. Collaborate with the Chapters and Constituency Group Committee to spotlight new chapter launches, ongoing chapter events, and membership interest through quarterly publications such as Visions. 4. Explore the development of a publication directory and annual timeline to guide future PR leaders in planning and sequencing print campaigns and press releases. 	<p>This Committee shall, in coordination with the University’s Director of Alumni Relations, create, produce, and disseminate information on behalf of the Association and work to project a positive image of MUW, the Association, and former students.</p> <p>Target Goal: To focus on print and press release aspects of marketing and public relations for the MUWAA and work in tandem with the Digital Marketing Committee.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Troy Lewis (chair) 2. Clare Heafner (board) 3. Elizabeth Yoste Whittington 4. Lynne Lott Schneider 5. Cordie Holman Forrester 6. Madeline Giancola 7. Mandy Bowers 8. Pooja Shaunak
<p>Past Presidents Committee Chair: Heather Fasciocco Stone</p> <p><u>Goals for the 2025-2026 Board Year</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Involve Past Presidents in continuing the refresh of the Puckett House. 2. Host a Past Presidents Brunch to foster connection and recognition. 3. Refresh and restock the Homecoming ribbons. 	<p>This Committee serves as a support and advisory group for the current President and Board of Directors.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heather Fasciocco Stone (chair) 2. Jermarra Jones-Price (IPP) 3. Lynne Bryson Curtis 4. Kristi Hipp Mosley 5. Cheryl “Sherrie” Jackson Cooper 6. Emily Myers Garner 7. Rebecca Rogers 8. Ricki Rayner Garrett

4. Plan and coordinate the Gavel Pass of Past Presidents during Convocation.		
SPECIAL COMMITTEE	DESCRIPTION	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
<p>Membership Recruitment Committee Chair: Annie Oeth</p> <p><u>Goals for the 2025-2026 Board Year</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribute the official MUWAA gift to new members of the Long Blue Line at each on-campus commencement ceremony to welcome and engage recent graduates. 2. Plan and implement the annual “Why Do You W” membership campaign with a goal of reaching 3,000 active members during the 2025–2026 fiscal year. 3. Collaborate with the Finance Committee to send a targeted email to the general membership highlighting giving categories and ways to support MUWAA. 4. Explore continuing the Alumni vs. Student Line Dancing Competition as a fun and engaging Homecoming tradition. 	<p>The Committee aims to grow membership and encourage participation in the Association and University activities by educating new graduates about the Association, hosting a membership drive to re-engage current alumni and recruit new members, and supporting University activities and events as needed.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annie Oeth (chair) 2. Andrea Germany (board) 3. Leta Palmer 4. Audra Odom 5. Torialyn Draper Cook 6. Brandy Larmon 7. Marilyn Young Ford 8. Monique Jenkins 9. Brynn Morgan
<p>Mentoring Committee Chair: Bridget Smith Pieschel</p> <p><u>Goals for the 2025-2026 Board Year</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan and execute the 9th Annual B.L.U.E. Networking Event with a focus on student professional development. The event will feature a relevant, engaging theme, a diverse panel of alumni speakers, and a compelling keynote presenter. 2. Partner with the Digital Marketing and Public Relations Committees to build anticipation for B.L.U.E. by developing a social media 	<p>The Committee will work to strengthen the relationship with current students, cultivating them for active membership in the Association upon their graduation. The committee will be tasked with planning and executing events or programs directly related to this mission.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bridget Smith Pieschel(chair) 2. Trey Harper (board) 3. Brandy Larmon 4. Sonny Lemmons 5. Audra Odom 6. Terry Coffey 7. Lynn Lott Schneider

<p>campaign, including a “Save the Date” announcement by October of the fall semester</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Collaborate with the Women’s College to establish an alumni mentoring network and actively promote the Spring Fling mentoring event held during Homecoming. 		
<p>Strategy and Support Committee Chair: Bayleigh Vick Board Office: President-Elect</p> <p><u>Goals for the 2025-2026 Board Year</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distribute the Year-End Board Service Survey to all 2024–2025 Board members and Committee Chairs to gather feedback and insights. 2. Research and launch a beta version of a Homecoming smartphone app, featuring campus check-ins, interactive maps, daily schedules, and real-time event alerts. 3. Research and propose potential membership benefits to enhance the value and engagement of MUWAA members. 4. Prepare and distribute the 2026-2027 MUWAA Committee Interest survey. 	<p>The Strategy and Support Committee, led by the President-Elect of the Association and composed of 4-5 MUWAA Board Members appointed by the President of the Association, capitalizes on the University’s strategic planning process with goals of maximizing volunteer support for the mission and vision of the University and focuses on collaboration with institutional initiatives if members concur.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bayleigh Vick (chair) 2. Carrie Niemet (board) 3. Bridget Smith Pieschel (board) 4. Sydney Pittman (board) 5. Nicole Rensink (board) 6. Terri Stewart (board)
<p>One MUW Committee Chair: Sonny Lemmons</p> <p><u>Goals for the 2025-2026 Board Year</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to develop and host the One MUW Speaker Series, providing meaningful 	<p>This committee shall work to cultivate stronger relationships with alumni of all lived experiences to enjoy a collective environment of representation, support, and engagement while cultivating intentional opportunities for personal and professional growth.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sonny Lemmons (chair) 2. Sydney Pittman (board) 3. Jermarra Jones-Price (PP) 4. Natalie Hoyt 5. Katie Nelson 6. Torialyn Draper-Cook 7. Jianwen Jackson

<p>engagement opportunities for the MUWAA Board of Directors, alumni, and students.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Ariel Sewell 9. Grace Gibbons 10. Janet Watson 11. Kris Sullivan 12. Elois Smith
<p>Digital Marketing Committee Chair: Clare Haefner</p> <p><u>Goals for the 2025-2026 Board Year</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze post engagement from high-traffic events during the 2024–2025 Board year to collaborate with Public Relations and all Board committees. Use these insights to develop ongoing monthly social media content and support the launch of new initiatives targeting similar audiences. 2. Evaluate the continued use of the social media platform X and consider transitioning to Blue Sky as a potential replacement. 3. Partner with the Office of Alumni and Development to align messaging by developing and maintaining a shared promotional calendar in coordination with the Public Relations Committee. This calendar will support timely promotion of both MUWAA and MUW events. 4. Collaborate monthly with the Board of Directors to source organic and event-related content that entertains, educates, 	<p>The Committee shall, in coordination with the University’s Director of Alumni Relations and in alignment with the MUWAA Public Relations Committee, create, produce, and disseminate digital and social media information on behalf of the Association and work to project a positive image of the University, the Association, and former students. The Committee also will help ensure all information maintains the brand standards of the University and the Association.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clare Haefner (chair) 2. Jonathan Cumberland (board) 3. Troy Lewis 4. Brigett Smith Ellis 5. Kelsey Cockrell 6. Monica Vandenbranden Abner 7. Kris Sullivan 8. Jittoria Jones Hunter

inspires, and drives engagement to amplify the MUWAA story across platforms.		
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NOTES:

- Each board member must serve on at least one committee
- No less than 5 members on each standing committee
- No more than 8 members on each standing committee
- No more than 2 board members on each standing committee
- Except for the Nominations and Finance Committees, Standing Committees can have only 8 members, and all committee members must be active members of the Association.
- New Group Formation Subcommittee has been added to Chapters & Constituency Groups this year to focus solely on formulation of new college-based groups and alumni chapters from interest to execution.
- Magnolia Mingle Subcommittee will be filled before Winter Board Meeting as a new Co-Chair term will be starting.
- These rules do not apply to “special” committees (Membership, Mentoring, Strategy, or One MUW) or subcommittees. They too just need to be active members.