

MINUTES FOR JUNE 23, 2007 BOARD MEETING OF THE MISSISSIPPI
UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
(Approved Oct. 20, 2007)

President Susan Puckett called the meeting to order. Susan reported the unfortunate reluctance by the school's administration to come and present campus reports. She asked board members to introduce themselves, state their year, a brief bio and why they decided to get involved with the Alumnae Association. She then asked Jan McSpaddin to give the invocation.

Gus Argrett read the minutes from the April 20th meeting. He received corrections related to the Foundation account timeline (1977 not 1979), Patsy McDaniel Scholarship Fund and the match but Betty Lou Jones and Kay Cobb (\$1497.00 in envelope not 14000.00) and Jennifer Katool's report on the Cookbook committee (4000 books not 400). Susan Puckett made a motion to accept the minutes, it was second and the motion was carried.

Francis Hairston gave the Treasurer's report. Ricki Garrett suggested making a change to the ending balance notation because of the continued dispute with the Foundation over our accounts. Betty Lou Jones asked why Dr. Bouse did not release information about the accounts. It was told that the accounts were part of the litigation. There was some discussion about the potential conflict of interest of Andrea Overby Foundation position and the Brunini Law Firm representing the Foundation.

Susan moved the discussion along to Campus reports. She stressed the importance of alumni being focused on supporting the University despite recent difficulties. Susan reported that Dr Wesley declined to attend or to issue a report on Admissions. Dr. Limbert or her assistant Linda also declined to attend or issue a report on the state of the Campus. Perry Sansing informed Julia Hussey to say no information would be provided. Betty Lou suggested individual letters to be written to Dr. Wesley (cc Dr. Limbert) asking what could be done to help with recruitment. BettyLou reminded the amount of money the school receives is based on their enrollment. One student could make the difference.

Dr. Bridget Pieschel was not available to give her report at this time but was on her way.

Janise Giallourakis gave the Faculty report. The school had an orientation for 70 transfer students. The criteria for the two culinary scholarships have been set. One will be for a freshman/Sophomore and the other one will be for a Junior/Senior. She said there was some discussion about revising the Core Curriculum. Betty Lou asked about faculty perception of alumni. Janise said the faculty was oblivious to alumni concerns but they have a positive image of the alumni and are supportive. Betty Lou made a motion to thank and welcome the new Provost, who takes office on 07/02/07. Motion was approved.

Jenny Katool gave the cookbook report. Due to the current litigation, the book inventory had to be removed from the school and relocated to storage in Ridgeland, MS. Marketing of the books will be reinitiated. Proceeds from book sales will go to alumni activities and scholarships. Jenny suggested alums buy 3 cases to move books, a similar strategy done by Junior League. Tracey said the books were still available on Amazon. Neely suggested tying the cookbook to the Communications committee and have one person to communicate their needs. Kay Cobb suggested chapters buy and sell the cookbooks.

Susan changed the schedule to allow Patsy give an explanation of each committee. Neely also suggested that each committee think about their communication needs.

Susan discussed gubernatorial interviews. Jan asked if answers from the survey would be shared. Kay Cobb reminded the body that party primaries were coming soon. Mary Hawkins stressed the Lt. Governor race was more important than the Governor race.

Del and Neely lead a detail discussion of our communication limitations due to our disconnection from the school. Ideas and suggestions were made to help the alumnae association moved from a reactive position to a proactive position:

- ❖ Have one person in a committee responsible for communicating to the Executive committee.
- ❖ Establish a connection to the Executive committee.
- ❖ Create a channel where ideas could be passed up and controlled to create a coherent consistent message.
- ❖ Messages passed on to the Public Relations Committee for dissemination.

Discussion quickly moved to a mail-out to all 22,000 alums. The school was preparing one and the consensus was the alumnae association needed one to express our side of the story. There were discussions about the merits of a physical newsletter versus an updated internet site. Del explained that the newsletter was about more than our Disaffiliation. It should be informative and organic. Kim Gore made a point that the content of Cindy Pond's website while helpful has not been approved by the Executive committee. Kay Cobb also made a legal point that the two websites should be separate. Betty Lou reminded the body part of the problem to date the school has been monitoring Cindy's website and painting the entire alumnae body with those comments. She agreed two website would be best. She also suggested establishing an answering service where interested alums could callback for more information. The decision was made to create a separate website with approved content and to do a mail-out. Gail Glenn pledge \$1000.00 towards the mail-out effort.

The group adjourned for Lunch.

After lunch, Dr Bridget Pieschel gave a report for Welty Weekend. The Woman of the year Luncheon will be held on Noon on Friday, October 19th. She stressed the importance of supporting and honoring Kay Cobb, the recipient.