

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: April 25, 2022

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vicki Bingham, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Mr. Rick Munroe (via phone), Dr. Andy Novobilski, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, Ms. Nakikke Wallace, Dr. Andrew Wegmann, and Mr. William Young (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: None

Guests: Dr. Joshua Armstrong, President-Elect, Faculty Senate
Ms. Caroline Fletcher, Chair-Elect, Administrative Staff Council
Dr. Leslie Griffin, Representative-Elect, Academic Council

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on April 25, 2022. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Mr. Rutledge, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on April 18, 2022.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. The Division of Student Affairs Awards Ceremony was last week, and eight Delta State students were inducted into the Student Hall of Fame. The Office of Admissions hosted two Takin' Care of Business days last week. President LaForge visited with Mr. Ron Nurnberg of Teach For America last week, and he participated in an American Association of State Colleges and Universities Committee on International Education conference call. The College of Education and Human Sciences, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the College of Business and Aviation hosted their annual Spring honors and awards ceremonies. The Alliance of National Heritage Areas hosted their Spring meeting on campus. The Institutional Executive Officers had their monthly meeting, and discussion topics included: the FY22 legislative session; increasing the IHL system's efforts for FY23 legislative session; ARPA funds provided by the State to private education institutions; discussion on how Ellucian wants to leverage technology to support the IHL system; and, the annual budget request from University Press of Mississippi. The highlights of the FY22 legislative session discussed were: an extension on authority of the IHL Board to oversee certain construction projects funded by State general obligation bonds; Mississippi Intercollegiate Athletics Compensation Act and Mississippi Uniform Agents Act with regards to name, image, and likeness; properties held by university foundations are exempt from ad valorem tax; creation of the Mississippi Equal Pay for Equal Work Act; prohibition of state and local government imposing COVID-19 vaccine mandates; and, the prohibition of Critical Race Theory instruction. The IEOs participated in a conference call with Dr. Nancy Zimpher to discuss Systems at NASH program. The IHL Board of Trustees

held their monthly meeting, and they approved the university’s renewed agreement with Barnes and Noble College Booksellers; purchase of aircrafts for the Department of Commercial Aviation; and, the university’s tuition, room, and board rates. The Board of Trustees granted IEOs the authority to grant tenure at their respective institutions. The Division of Social Sciences and History hosted the annual Sammy O. Cranford Memorial History Lecture. The Office of Human Resources hosted the Annual Retirement and Service Awards Ceremony. SGA hosted the Big Green Event. On behalf of Cabinet members, President LaForge congratulated Mr. Young on an excellent event.

- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The campus-wide roofing project is delayed due to weather. A pre-planning meeting for the Mississippi Department of Transportation sidewalk project is scheduled for Thursday. The Executive Committee plans to discuss how the bond funds for FY23 will be used on the university priorities. The current priorities are renovation of Foundation Hall, campus-wide HVAC needs, and ADA upgrades to the BPAC. Mr. Rutledge requested from the City of Cleveland the closure of an alley on the north side of the School of Nursing project site for building equipment and materials, and they approved the request.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The softball team and baseball team competed against University of West Alabama over the weekend. The softball team finished 0-3, and the baseball team finished 1-2. The softball team and baseball team host Christian Brothers University this weekend. The golf team received a bid to compete in the NCAA Southeast Regional Tournament beginning on May 5. The men’s tennis team will compete in the GSC Tournament later this week. The Green and White Awards Ceremony will be held Tuesday night beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Walter Sillers Coliseum.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. President LaForge continues his departmental visits this week with visits to University Advancement Development staff, Social Work Department, and Student Business Services. The SGA Inauguration will be held tonight in Jobe Hall Auditorium beginning at 6:00 p.m., followed by a dinner hosted by President LaForge in the Leroy E. Morganti Atrium. On behalf of Cabinet members, President LaForge thanked Mr. Young for his dedication to his position as SGA President and his service to Delta State as a student leader. The Campus Forum is scheduled for Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. in Jacob Conference Center. Administrative Professionals Day is Wednesday. The NCAA DII Implementation Committee Co-chairs are scheduled to provide an update to the NCAA DII Presidents Council on Wednesday. WLBT News scheduled an interview with President LaForge for Thursday to discuss his extensive Beatles collection. DMI hosts their bi-annual Graduation Jam at Hey Joes on Thursday evening.

CABINET TOPIC

FY23 Budget Recommendations..... Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge brought to Cabinet the FY23 budget recommendations, which were drafted by the Executive Committee and Athletic Director in consultation with the appropriate units in their areas. The FY23 budget recommendation started with the FY22 approved budget of \$50,071,960. For FY23, it is projected that revenues will decrease by \$3,443,353 in the following areas: reduction in projected tuition, and the availability of one-time Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF). Additional revenues for FY23 are: a one-time transfer of auxiliary funds; an increase to administrative fees collected from university designated funds; a 3% tuition increase (based on projected enrollment of 2,275); \$2,738,187 in State Appropriations; and, an increase in State earmarks. Additional revenue for FY23 is \$4,949,138. The university will receive a reduction of \$7,528 in Repair and Renovation funds from the State. Projected expenditure increases for FY23 are: the addition of a cash contingency to build towards the university’s 90-day reserves; adjustment to student-athlete scholarships for tuition increase; adjustment to Graduate Assistantships for tuition increase; funding for Phase I and Phase II priorities; a 3% salary increase; an

increase to raise the salary of all full-time employees to at least \$23,000; salary increases for market compression; and, an increase to fringe benefits. The proposed budget for FY23 has several reductions in expenses from FY22: reduction of capital expenditures; savings from converting Office of Information Technology services to in house; reduction of institutional scholarships; reduction of Regular Student Employment funds; reduction of one-time capital expenditures; and a reduction of each vice president's and Athletic Director's budgets. The FY23 budget recommendation is \$51,570,217.

Mr. Rutledge shared with Cabinet members the recommendations for funding Phase I and Phase priorities. There are 24 priorities from Phase I and Phase II that are able to be funded, and approximately \$200,000 of the \$1,404,198 being used to fund the priorities will be a recurring expense each year. The Executive Committee has not discussed salary increases for market compression at this time, but Mr. Rutledge will bring a recommendation to a future Cabinet meeting. A recommendation was made by Cabinet members to consider increasing the salary amounts for faculty who receive a promotion from assistant professor to associate professor and from associate professor to professor. Prior to this discussion, Dr. Novobilski would like to receive and review data on promotions from the past five years.

BUSINESS

Action

FY23 Budget Recommendations..... Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge shared with Cabinet members the proposed FY23 budget recommendation (*see above*).

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the FY23 budget recommendation and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion was approved.

Housing Rates for Hill Apartments Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge shared with Cabinet members the proposed housing rates for Hill Apartments for FY23. Hill Apartments offers an apartment-style housing option for students who are upperclassmen undergraduates, graduate assistants, or are a married/single parent student obtaining a degree. The proposed rates are: \$3,125 for upperclassmen undergraduates; \$1,375 for graduate assistants; and, \$2,750 for married/single parent students. There are 16 units earmarked for graduate assistants, and eight are earmarked for married/single parent students. Of the 16 units earmarked for graduate assistants, eight are earmarked for the Athletics Department graduate assistants. Sodexo has agreed to provide a commuter meal plan to residents of Hill Apartments. Repairs and renovations start soon on six of the units, and they are scheduled to be completed by August 1. The Executive Committee will discuss a cutoff date for when earmarked apartments that are unfilled will be available to other eligible students.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the housing rates for Hill Apartments and seconded by Dr. Novobilski. The motion was approved.

Discussion

Campus Forum preparation Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts provided Cabinet members with a revised overview of the talking points for Campus Forum, which will be held on tomorrow, April 26, at 2:00 p.m. in Jacob Conference Center in Ewing Hall. The Campus Forum is open to all faculty and staff. Topics for the campus forum include: the budget status for FY22; Legislative Session results for 2022; the budget impact for FY23; update on Scholarship Management System; recommendations made by Prosper & Partner for Office of Student Affairs; an enrollment update;

current campus projects; new initiatives; SACSCOC reaffirmation; and, upcoming events. A question and answer segment will occur after each segment. Questions can be submitted to constituency group leaders prior to the forum or asked during the event.

New Reporting Structure/Budget Impact/Oversight for Intramurals, Fitness Center, Wyatt Center, and Walker Natatorium.....Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin shared with Cabinet members a decision made by the Executive Committee to alter the reporting structure and oversight of Intramurals, the Fitness Center, Wyatt Center, and Walker Natatorium. The Vice President for Student Affairs will oversee all programs within the Forest E. Wyatt Center other than academic programs. Additional discussions for oversight of the Mayers Aquatics Center will occur at a later date. Currently, the swimming and diving coaches oversee the upkeep of the pool.

New Reporting Structure/Budget Impact for Academic TestingDr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin shared with Cabinet members a decision made by the Executive Committee to alter the reporting structure and oversight for academic testing. Currently, the Office of Counseling Services oversees testing services; however, testing services will transition to the Office of Continuing Education.

New Reporting Structure for Dual Enrollment/CreditDr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin shared with Cabinet members a decision made by the Executive Committee to alter the reporting structure and oversight for Dual Enrollment and Dual Credit. The Office of Continuing Education will assume responsibility for Dual Enrollment and Dual Credit, with the Office of Admissions helping to ensure a smooth transition.

Enrollment Update/Overview.....Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin reviewed with Cabinet members the enrollment update and overview from Thursday, April 21: 109 enrolled students; 194 confirmed students; 709 admitted students; 1,175 incomplete applications (missing documents); 533 online applications started; and, 22,176 prospects — for a total of 24,896 students being targeted for undergraduate admissions. The university has hosted two Takin’ Care of Business Days thus far, with the third scheduled for tomorrow morning. Additional Takin’ Care of Business Days will take place in June and August.

Institutional Effectiveness and Planning updateDr. Novobilski

Dr. Novobilski announced five Delta State employees will attend the 2022 Institute on Quality Enhancement and Accreditation this summer to help with the developmental of the university’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) proposal. The QEP committee plans to present their proposal in June.

Additional Information

- Mr. Kinnison announced former Delta State quarterback Scott Eyster will be inducted into the GSC Hall of Fame in June.
- Mr. Munroe announced the Greenwood Alumni Chapter will host a chapter meeting on August 5. The Greater Jackson Alumni Chapter will host their annual meeting at the Mississippi Children’s Museum, on June 23.
- Dr. Novobilski shared with Cabinet members they had outstanding attendance at the Department of Commercial Aviation’s Open House last week. Current students and their families, as well as alumni, were in attendance for the great event.
- Dr. Novobilski announced the Digital Media Art Student Exhibition begins this week.
- On behalf of all Cabinet members, Dr. Novobilski congratulated Dr. Roberts on her 30 years of service to Delta State.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Student Affairs' "Takin' Care of Business Day," April 19, April 22, April 26 (a.m. only)
- Campus Forum, April 26, 2:00 p.m., Jacob Conference Center
- Dinner for Outgoing and Incoming SGA Officers, April 25, 7:30 p.m., Leroy E. Morganti Atrium, Kent Wyatt Hall
- Dinner for Graduating International Students, May 4, 5:30 p.m., President's Home
- Reception and Dinner for Walt Bettinger, May 5, 6:00 p.m., Leroy E. Morganti Atrium, Kent Wyatt Hall
- Spring Commencement, May 6, 10:00 a.m., Walter Sillers Coliseum

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, May 2, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Campus Forum recap (President LaForge)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.