

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: August 13, 2018

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Dr. Severine Groh, Mr. Charlie King, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Billy Moore, Mr. Rick Munroe, Dr. Christy Riddle, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (Ms. Ann Giger – recorder)

Members not in attendance: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on August 13, 2018. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rutledge and seconded by Dr. Groh, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on July 16, 2018.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge thanked everyone for the well wishes for his new granddaughter. Also, he announced that Ms. Claire Cole welcomed her new daughter on Friday.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events that took place during the past several weeks. He participated in the NCAA Teleconference on New Regular Season Media Agreements and also attended the NCAA DII President's Council and Planning and Finance Committee Meetings in Indianapolis.
- President LaForge reported on the telephone discussion he had with Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter regarding a possible partnership the Rural Entrepreneurship Program.
- Mr. Rick Munroe attended the Greater Jackson Alumni Meeting, Desoto County Alumni Meeting, Greater Leflore County Alumni Meeting, and the Greenwood-Leflore Alumni Meeting, and stated they were all great events.
- Mr. Ronnie Mayers said the sixth Annual Football Family Bash was held on August 3, 2018 at the Cleveland Country Club, and it was well attended.
- President LaForge attended the Commemoration Ceremony for the unveiling of the Thad Cochran United States Courthouse.
- President LaForge welcomed new students at the New Student Week Opening Session, and he also attended many activities of the week.
- Dr. Vernell Bennett gave a report on Sorority Recruitment. A total of 77 girls began the week, and 69 girls signed bids: Tri Delta – 26, Kappa Delta – 22, Phi Mu – 21.
- Mr. Ronnie Mayers gave an update on Athletics. The 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees will be recognized during halftime of the DSU vs. University of West Georgia football game on September 29, 2018. The new inductees selected by the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee are: Football – Mr. Scott

Eyster and Mr. Londale Bankston; Men’s Basketball – Mr. Jasper Johnson and Mr. Rodney Francis; Women’s Basketball – Ms. Jennifer Rushing; Softball – Ms. Leslie Porciau Patten; Men’s Swim and Dive – Mr. Trey LaBella; Baseball – Mr. Mike Rosamond and Mr. Marcus Van Every; Men’s Tennis – Mr. Peter Eckhardt; Track and Field – Mr. Ken Baker; Golf – Mr. Jay Hale; Honorary Inductee in Women’s Tennis – Ms. Wenonah Montgomery Dearing. The coaches who will be inducted are Ms. Barbara Varner (Tennis) and Mr. Dominic Bevelaqua (Football). Ms. Christie Rocconi will receive the Athletic Alumni Appreciation Award and the Distinguished Statesman Award will be given to Dr. Bob Ferguson.

- Mr. Jamie Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Zeigel Hall is finished with only final touch-ups and landscaping to be completed. Furniture will be here by August 23. Young Mauldin Cafeteria is expected to be operational by mid-October. As with Zeigel, we are waiting on the arrival of furniture. Statesmen Boulevard currently has the asphalt poured, the 2-week curing process has begun, and striping of the boulevard will follow. The landscaping at Caylor-White-Walters will be completed in two weeks.
- President LaForge stated this will be a busy week as everyone prepares for the return of students on August 20.
- Dr. Bennett gave an update on New Student Week. Attendance in the sessions has been very good, and there has been an overwhelming amount of support for this event.
- President LaForge announced the Ice Cream Social for new students will be held on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Union, 2nd Floor, West Lobby. He asked all Cabinet members to assist him in serving ice cream to the new students.
- President LaForge stated the regular IEO and IHL Board meetings will take place on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Approval for the building of the President’s house is scheduled to take place.
- Dr. Charles McAdams reminded Cabinet members of the annual Convocation on Thursday at 3:00 p.m. President LaForge invited Cabinet members to join him for the Pre-Convocation gathering at 2:00 p.m. in the Green Room of the BPAC. During Convocation, each Cabinet member will be introduced and asked to stand. There will be several recognitions during the Convocation, as well as a special gift announcement. Also, the Delta Regional Foundation will be recognized and thanked for sponsoring the Back to School Lunch for faculty and staff, which is scheduled for Friday, August 17.
- President LaForge stated the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce’s annual Welcome Back Reception for faculty and staff will be held on Thursday at The Warehouse, beginning at 5:30 p.m.
- President LaForge is scheduled to give remarks at the Statesmen Convocation Ceremony on Friday for New Student Week.
- President LaForge said the Memorial Service for Dr. Cheryl Cummins will take place on Saturday, August 18. Visitation is scheduled for 1:00 p.m., in the Jacob Conference Center, followed by the Memorial Service at 2:00 p.m.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members a copy of *Delta Flight Magazine* and *Delta Business Journal*, both of which contain articles about Delta State.

CABINET TOPIC

Cabinet Advance recapDr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts reviewed notes from the Cabinet Advance, which was held July 10-11, 2018. Special attention was given to the Visioning Principles section. Mr. Rutledge asked for more direction on what he needs to do with the Campus Master Plan. Dr. Roberts suggested putting together a recommendation for each of the building/areas discussed, along with the estimated cost, source of funds, and a timetable for completion. Cabinet members agreed to complete and submit their goals forms to Dr. Roberts by September 14.

BUSINESS

Action

Bid for new LED Marquee Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge thanked Cabinet Members for their timely action, via email, to approve the recommendation of the evaluation committee to purchase the LED Marquee sign from Robinson Electric.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to ratify the email action of the Cabinet on July 25 to approve the recommendation of the evaluation committee to purchase the LED Marquee sign from Robinson Electric, and seconded by Dr. Michelle Roberts. The motion was approved.

Grants and Contracts policy (revised – first reading)..... Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge and Dr. McAdams recently discussed the Grants and Contracts policy, and are now recommending that we add a section related to “Tuition Remission, Degree Completion Compensation, and Merit Raises” to specify the process and procedures for these items. The Federal Government has changed the way grants can be used, and so Mr. Rutledge asked that the following information be added: “Grant employees are not eligible for benefits for spouse and children, and the Grant is to fund the benefits and salary.” Dr. Roberts recommended specifying who is responsible for requesting the prior approval from the Grants office.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the revised Grants and Contracts policy for first reading and seconded by Dr. Charles McAdams. The motion was approved.

Priorities for Bond Funding for FY19..... Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge brought to Cabinet the revised priority listing for Bond funding for FY19. The initial report was presented to Cabinet for approval on July 2; however, Dr. Moore asked that action on the item be tabled until additional information was received. Since that time, Mr. Rutledge and Mr. Jeff Barkman met with Dr. Moore, and Dr. Moore provided information regarding facility needs for Broom Hall. As a result of those discussions, Mr. Rutledge agreed to modify the report to transfer funds that had been designated for Ward Hall to Broom Hall.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the priority listing for Bond funding for FY19 and seconded by Dr. Roberts.

Discussion

Campus Visit from IHL Commissioner..... Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts announced that IHL Commissioner Dr. Al Rankins plans to visit all IHL universities during his first 100 days of office. He is scheduled to visit Delta State on Thursday, August 23. Dr. Roberts distributed a copy of the tentative schedule for the IHL Commissioner’s Listening Tour at Delta State. During his visit, Dr. Rankins would like to meet with local legislators, Cabinet Members, Academic Council, Staff Council, student leaders, Faculty Senate, and the local media, and he will have an open forum for the entire campus community. His tour will end with a reception in his honor with community members and alumni. Dr. Roberts asked Cabinet Members to coordinate the sessions for their areas. A final schedule will be shared with Cabinet Members at a later time. President LaForge stated this is a chance for all campus constituencies to have a face-to-face meeting with the Commissioner.

Additional Information:

- Dr. Bennett said they do not have firm enrollment numbers for Fall 2018 yet, but she will provide a report to Cabinet next week. Mr. Rutledge reported that revenue numbers, from tuition, are down, especially with graduate students.
- Mr. Rutledge reported that OIT continues to fight cyber-attacks. Also, auditors were on campus last week and will be on campus again this week.
- Dr. Moore announced that they have moved the International Business Symposium from the Spring semester to the Fall. The dates have been set for October 11-12.
- Dr. Riddle announced that 82 new international students have been accepted for the Fall 2018 semester; however, due to the immigration climate, only 50-60 new international students will enroll. We graduated only 26 international students in May 2019, and so our net enrollment is up.
- Dr. McAdams announced two good news items that relate to Visioning Principle #10: Community Engagement. First, he stated that he was approached by the WEISS Institute, who is in charge of the “Say Yes to Education” initiative, and they are interested in bringing the program to Delta State. The second good news item is that Dr. Moore, along with a few business faculty members, met with Mr. Dinesh Chawla and one of his partners to discuss the People Shores program, of which there are only two in the country, locating in Clarksdale. They are interested in providing job training in technology areas, and there will be job placement and internship opportunities for our students majoring in computer science.
- President LaForge gave an update on the golf course property. He said we are still having discussions with a possible vendor and with IHL personnel.

Personnel Changes:

- Mr. Rutledge stated they are in the process of hiring an Assistant Comptroller.
- Dr. Billy Moore announced that Mr. Chip Cooper, in the Commercial Aviation department, is leaving Delta State to go to work for the airline industry. Also, he announced that Ms. Allison McCreary has returned from maternity leave.
- Mr. Rick Munroe announced several personnel changes:
 - Mr. Peter Szatmary is the new Director of Communications and Marketing
 - Ms. Sheria Smith is the new Annual Fund Director
 - Mr. Jeffrey Farris is the new Director of Development
 - The Director of Alumni Affairs position is vacant
 - There are two vacancies in Communication and Marketing
- Dr. Roberts announced that Ms. Sara Bufkin has been hired as the new Administrative Secretary in the President’s Office.
- Dr. McAdams reported that new faculty are being hired daily in preparation for the Fall semester.
- Mr. Mayers announced that Coach Mike Kinnison is working to hire two assistant baseball coaches. Also, the new Assistant Basketball coach for the men’s team is Mr. John Redman.
- Dr. Riddle announced that Mr. Willie Gant has been hired as the new SOS Coordinator. They have two vacancies in the Student Success Center: Writing Tutor and Developmental Studies position.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- New Student Week, August 12-18
- President's Ice Cream Social for new students, Tuesday, August 14, 6:00 p.m., Nowell Union, Second Floor, West Lobby
- Pre-Convocation gathering, Thursday, August 16, 2:00 p.m., Green Room in BPAC

- Convocation, Thursday, August 16, 3:00 p.m., BPAC
- Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce's Welcome Back Reception for faculty and staff, Thursday August 16, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m., The Warehouse Restaurant
- Welcome Back luncheon for faculty and staff, Friday, August 17, 12:00 noon, Second Floor, H.L. Nowell Union
- Day and night classes begin, August 20

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, August 20 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.