

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: August 28, 2017

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. George Beals, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Dr. Dave Breaux, Ms. Ashley Griffin, Mr. Patrick Hundley, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, and Ms. Caitlyn Thompson (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 28, 2017. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rutledge, seconded by Dr. Beals, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on August 14, 2017.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge expressed his appreciation to Mr. Rutledge for organizing for Cabinet Members a luncheon in the new, temporary cafeteria.
- Dr. Beals announced he was invited to be a part of a counseling team for those effected by Hurricane Harvey.
- Dr. Bennett gave an overview of the IMPACT Greek Conference that took place in Lake Village, AR. Students learned about the recruitment processes for each organization and ways to collaborate with others. Dr. Bennett believes the conference was worthwhile, and she plans on having the group meet monthly.
- President LaForge and Mr. Keith Fulcher met with Mr. Frank Smith a few weeks ago to discuss his involvement with the Campaign. President LaForge stated the visit went very well, and Mr. Smith was excited to get involved.
- President LaForge attended the Institutional Executive Officers meeting and IHL Board meeting a few weeks ago. Several important topics were discussed. President LaForge and other university presidents will meet individually with the Board of Trustees after the monthly Board meetings to discuss major issues. Topics for the Board's September Retreat will include: funding model, system sustainability, academic achievements and programs, and Ayers funding. The ACT Profile report for the State was discussed, and IEOs received a copy of the report. A copy of the economic impact study for 2015-2034 was provided to the presidents. President LaForge shared the document with Cabinet Members. The presidents were given two reports detailing workforce outcomes of public university graduates. One report is for the IHL system and the other report is specific to Delta State. Legislative issues were discussed including the bond strategy, appropriations, repair and renovation funds, and the concern with out of state students. The IEOs plan to ask for full restoration from the past two years. Social issues were also discussed including the need for a new state flag. President LaForge told Cabinet

members to let him know if they want a copy of the materials.

- Dr. McAdams gave an overview of Convocation. He believes the event went very well and was well attended. Dr. Breaux expressed that he liked the new schedule of the State of the University address occurring on Thursday and the luncheon occurring on Friday. President LaForge thanked Dr. Roberts for her time and effort in putting together the PowerPoint presentation for the State of the University address, and he asked Cabinet Members their thoughts on whether the PowerPoint presentation complements or detracts from the address. A consensus was reached by Cabinet Members that the PowerPoint presentation is effective and helps to keep the audience's attention. Dr. Beals suggested that the new faculty and staff stand together at the end of being introduced instead of standing after having their names called so that they don't have to stand so long. Dr. McAdams asked Cabinet Members their opinion on how to get departments to mingle with others during the luncheon. One suggestion was to have international students serve as hosts at tables, and encourage faculty and staff to sit at the table where they would like to learn more about that country.
- President LaForge expressed his appreciation to the Chamber of Commerce for hosting the Welcome Back Reception for faculty and staff. He stated the event was well attended.
- Dr. Bennett gave an overview of Welcome Week. She stated she was excited to see activity on campus, and all events were well attended. Students appreciated the banner on the union displaying events occurring throughout the week.
- President LaForge gave a welcome to new students at the First Year Seminar Okra Rally last week.
- President and Mrs. LaForge attended the BPAC Performance of Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit with special guest, Amanda Shires last week. The event was a great start to the BPAC season.
- Mr. Hundley gave an overview of the Foundation Board meeting. He stated that he was pleased with the attendance, and he believes the new concepts presented were well-received. Board Members were engaged and asked great questions. The new concepts and changes will be voted on at the November 11 Board meeting.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Drainage work began on Statesmen Boulevard. The change order was approved for Zeigel Hall. Construction on Young-Mauldin Cafeteria begins on September 1. This project will last approximately 18 months. Due to construction, less parking will be available around the cafeteria. Construction on Parker Field continues. The first football game will be at Sellers Field at Cleveland Central High School, and the second game will be held at Parker Field.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. The Statesmen Radio Show occurs tonight at No Way Jose. Mr. Mayers thanked Mr. Hundley for assistance with the turf replacement issue on Parker Field.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the upcoming two week's activities. He will speak at the DSUnited Panel on Tuesday. Mr. Ross Barkley and Bureau of Buildings staff members will meet with President LaForge, Dr. Roberts, and Mr. Rutledge on Wednesday to discuss the new President's home. President LaForge and Mr. Keith Fulcher will meet with Mr. Joe Janoush on Wednesday to discuss university initiatives. Delta State hosts Tarleton State University at Sellers Field at Cleveland Central High School on Saturday, September 2. Delta State hosts Chowan University at Parker Field on Saturday, September 9.
- President LaForge reminded Cabinet Members of the Labor Day holiday next Monday and that Cabinet will not meet next week.

CABINET TOPIC

Cabinet Advance recap President LaForge
President LaForge provided a recap of the Cabinet Advance to remind Cabinet Members of the discussions that took place regarding Delta State's budget, the campus master plan, the upcoming Capital Campaign,

and a review of Delta State’s visioning principles. This exercise served as a way to keep Cabinet Members accountable for their respective areas. During Mr. Rutledge’s budget discussion at the Cabinet Advance, he spoke about the successful plans put in place to address the four mid-year budget cuts and the need to develop contingency plans in the event additional budget cuts occur in FY18. Mr. Rutledge stated the university needs to be stricter on purchases as this is the tightest budget in Delta State’s history. If cuts occur in FY18, Delta State will begin looking into possible programs and positions to cut. President LaForge said we will implement the “Pay Go” system whereby a person has to identify the funding source for any new budget items. At the Advance, there was an ad hoc discussion about the need to utilize data to make decisions as well as data needed for speeches, reports, etc. Dr. Roberts suggested creating a dashboard with information readily available to those that need it. Several data metrics were suggested, and the Executive Committee will narrow down the list and discuss ownership of this idea. The next area of discussion was the campus master plan. During the discussion, Dr. Roberts asked Cabinet Members to consider facility needs of current Delta State programs and envision what Delta State should look like in five to ten years. President LaForge stated all plans need to be executable. Mr. Rutledge reminded Cabinet Members of the top priorities for the university: a replacement President’s home, becoming ADA compliant, and replacing HVAC systems on campus. Dr. Roberts stated that it will take several Cabinet meetings to flesh out the various ideas, develop priorities, and determine a plan of action. Mr. Rutledge stated that Delta State is slated to receive \$650,000 in R&R funds during the upcoming Legislative Session, if funds are available. Miss Griffin announced that the SGA is working to develop a student fundraising campaign to assist with the funding of a new recreation center for students. President LaForge asked Mr. Hundley to release a story on this initiative. At the Advance, Mr. David Shufflebarger, Delta State’s campaign consultant, and Mr. Hundley gave an overview of the upcoming capital campaign. One of Mr. Shufflebarger’s ideas was to have a Giving Day for Delta State, and for the Administrative Staff Council, Faculty Senate, and SGA to lead the charge. Another idea on fostering giving on campus was to have a faculty and staff member serve as co-chairs for the campus campaign. Mr. Shufflebarger suggested the development officer reach out to faculty members to request information regarding their connections with donors and to build strategies with each department to create a mindset of unity on campus. Mr. Hundley and Mr. Shufflebarger informed Cabinet Members of their role for the capital campaign of being additional development officers and giving a firsthand account of what is needed based on the university’s priorities. The Feasibility Report will be ready by October 2. President LaForge said he will invite Mr. Shufflebarger to present the report to the Cabinet. The Visioning discuss that took place at the Advance entailed reviewing each of the goals and having each Cabinet Member provide an update on the status of their goals. President LaForge reminded Cabinet Members that these principles are not a one-time exercise. He also reminded Cabinet members to complete a form for the new goals that were developed at the Advance, and to send the forms to Ms. Cole. Another important topic discussed at the Cabinet Advance was employee morale. President LaForge asked Cabinet Members what the university can do to boost employee morale in the absence of pay raises. Dr. Beals reminded Cabinet Members that a simple “thank you” does not go unnoticed. Ms. Thompson and Dr. Beals will speak to their respective areas on the topic and bring suggestions to Cabinet. President LaForge announced his plans to host a monthly lunch for faculty and staff members and also to visit different departments on campus throughout the year in order to engage with different groups and hear their opinions.

BUSINESS

Action

Mission Statement **President LaForge**
President LaForge informed Cabinet Members the Board of Trustees will approve university mission

statements at the October IHL Board meeting. President LaForge wanted to bring the current mission statement to Cabinet for review prior to submission. A few changes were suggested including: deleting “Northern” from before Delta Counties; deleting information about campus centers in Clarksdale and Greenville; and, updating the names of the colleges to reflect College of Education and Human Sciences and College of Business and Aviation. Dr. McAdams recommended changing “... the ability to respect and evaluate the thoughts of others” to “...the ability to respect and value others.”

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the changes to Delta State’s Mission Statement and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

None

Additional Information

- Mr. Rutledge announced that the new Food Services Director for Aramark is Mr. Michael McDonald, and he will begin work full-time on September 1. Miss Griffin said that she met with Mr. McDonald to discuss the need for more fresh food, improved attitudes of food service employees, and providing Halal foods.
- President LaForge announced the next Colloquia Series speaker will be Dr. Rod Paige, former U.S. Secretary for Education for President George Bush. The tentative date for the Colloquium is Tuesday, October 10.
- Dr. Bennett provided a report on the Summer Orientation numbers. The report shows an increase in attendance, but there was clearly a decrease in the number of attendees. She will verify that the report is correct.
- President LaForge shared with Mr. Rutledge that the doors were unlocked and lights were left on after the event at Jobe on Friday. He also asked Dr. Bennett to remind Hall Directors that smoking is not allowed on campus, including Hill apartments.
- Dr. Beals inquired about the timeline for replacing the rubber footing on the steps in the stairwells in Ewing as well as increased lighting in the stairwells. Mr. Rutledge will inquire about this.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- DSU vs. Tarleton State University, September 2, 2:00 pm (Wear White), Cleveland Central High School
- DSU vs. Chowan University, September 9, 2:00 pm (Wear Green), Parker Field. President’s Reception at 1:30 pm in the Dorgan Center.

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, September 11
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.