

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: December 3, 2018

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Dr. Severine Groh, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Billy Moore, Mr. Rick Munroe, Dr. Christy Riddle, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Mr. Charlie King, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, and Dr. Michelle Roberts

Guests: Dr. Dave Breaux, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Mr. Talbot Brooks, Director, GIT Center
Dr. Ellen Green, Chair, Division of Mathematics and Science
Dr. Debbie Heslep, Dean, Enrollment Services
Mr. Mike Kinnison, Head Baseball Coach

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on December 3, 2018. The meeting convened at 2:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. McAdams and seconded by Dr. Riddle, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on November 26, 2018.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. President LaForge attended a DMI fundraiser titled Women in the Round held at Delta Meat Market. Each semester President LaForge hosts a reception for graduating international students. He hosted his biannual event last week for five international students. President LaForge traveled to Hazlehurst last Wednesday to recruit juniors and seniors at Copiah Academy. President LaForge continued his campus outreach last week with a half workday with Facilities Management. On Thursday evening, President LaForge moderated "An Evening with Andy Childs" at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi. President LaForge received an update on the Diversity Committee from Ms. Arlene Sanders on Friday, and she informed him of great, new programs sponsored by the committee. On Saturday, President LaForge participated in the Statesmen Junior and Senior Club "Academic Spotlight Day." Dr. Bennett informed Cabinet members 34 students registered and approximately half attended the event. The campus support and turnout was wonderful, and they gave the students a true taste of the life of a statesman. Going forward, recruitment on this event will begin earlier. Student Life hosted a Study Break with Chicken and Waffles on Sunday evening, and President LaForge along with other Cabinet members helped serve. Dr. Bennett stated 475-500 students attended.
- In Mr. Mayers' absence, Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The women's basketball team won both of their games last week against University of West Alabama and University of Montevallo. The

men's team split their games with a loss to University of West Alabama and a win over University of West Alabama. The women's team has 5-2 record, and the men's team has a 4-3 record. Coach Jim Boone garnered his 450th NCAA DII win during the University of Montevallo game. The men's team play Saturday night here against Selma University and Monday against Bethel University. Athletics was able to hire a Strength and Conditioning Coach due to a grant from Bolivar Medical Center Foundation; this will be a great asset to our student athletes. The Strength and Conditioning Coach is Kevin Rodriguez. Mr. Kinnison reminded Cabinet members of the Athletics Christmas party on Wednesday at The Warehouse.

- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management. He has received great reviews on the renovation of Young-Mauldin Cafeteria. Also, he has heard great reviews on the renovation of Zeigel Hall. The Bureau of Buildings approved the architects for HVAC and campus roofing projects. Both projects will be presented as agenda items at the January IHL Board meeting. Mr. Rutledge stated the plans for the President's Home were finalized this week, and the project will begin soon.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. University Advancement hosts their annual Retiree Christmas Party on Tuesday. The BPAC presents Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer: The Musical on Tuesday evening. President LaForge has invited Brady and Ann Marie Pate, Mayor Kenneth Lester of Jonestown, Mayor and Mrs. Harvey Burchfield of Drew, Dr. Christy Riddle and her daughter, and Dr. Severine Groh and her son to be his guests. On Wednesday, President LaForge will meet with Dr. Chip Morgan and Mr. Frank Howell to discuss Delta Council's Annual Meeting at Delta State. President LaForge will participate in Steve Azar's radio show "In a Mississippi Minute" on Wednesday. The Robert E. Smith School of Nursing hosts two events on Thursday. Their White Coat Ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m. and the Pinning Ceremony begins at 5:00 p.m.; both events will be in the BPAC. The Fall Commencement ceremonies are Friday at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the BPAC. At the 10:00 a.m. ceremony 112 graduate and undergraduate Robert E. Smith School of Nursing students will walk, and 155 undergraduate students from the College of Business and Aviation, College of Arts and Sciences, and College of Education and Human Sciences will walk at 2:00 p.m. In the case of inclement weather, students will report to the Delta and Pine Land Theater and be seated instead of processing in.

CABINET TOPIC

GIT CenterDr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams introduced Dr. Breaux Dr. Ellen Green, and Mr. Talbot Brooks. The Geospatial Information Technologies Center is a part of the Division for Mathematics and Sciences within the College of Arts and Sciences. This center is unique for what it does, how it engages the external community, and what it does for our students as an academic program. The GIT Center makes a difference in ways the university does not realize; their footprint of coverage is worldwide and is something for the university to be proud of. It is a growth area in our undergraduate programs. The GIT Center, established in 2005 as an academic unit, bases its programs on Geospatial Information Technologies which encompasses the use of geographic information systems, remote sensing, global positioning systems (GPS), spatial analysis techniques, and similar approaches to understand problems from a geographic perspective. The mission of the GIT Center is three pronged: teaching, research, and service. The center creates and delivers academic programs about geospatial technologies; provides training courses to the community in support of economic and community development; and, promotes interdisciplinary collaboration by using location as the thematic domain. They conduct research which advances the application of spatial technologies to local and regional challenges, and they develop, validate, and promote best practices for teaching geospatial technologies. Also, they conduct demonstration projects which promote the value and usefulness of geospatial technologies, and they act as the though leader for geospatial technologies. The center is largely self-funded through sponsored projects and grant funds; the university gives the Center \$78,800

per annum. Their annual operating budget is \$320,000 without student labor. The GIT Center’s newest degree program is the Bachelor of Applied Science in Geospatial Analysis and Intelligence. The program is offered completely online, and it has a large non-traditional student base as many of the students are active in the military. The first two students to complete this degree program will graduate this week. Mr. Brooks stated the top priorities for the Center are to grow the academic program, increase enrollment, serve the community, delve into research to procure more funding, provide global industry thought leadership, and develop the geospatial industry in our home region. The Center will execute their goals by validating their methods, publish their findings, hire the best in the industry, do excellent work, and get involved in the GIT community. By using their current relations and stellar reputation, they are hoping to build academic partnerships, research and development efforts, and sponsored projects. Mr. Brooks shared with Cabinet members the strengths and weaknesses of the center; several fall into the same category. The center has secured top of the line adjunct faculty members, but none of the faculty are on campus. The center is largely soft-money funded which means there isn’t a guarantee it will continue. Some of the threats to the center are competition from other programs, lack of hard money, and students matriculating to the workforce instead of graduate programs. Mr. Brooks is optimistic new opportunities abound with new funding sources to diversify, a market to international students is opening up, and new faculty members at DSU want to collaborate with the center. Dr. McAdams informed Cabinet members he feels the GIT Center warrants a full-time faculty member in order to have on campus faculty for the degree program. He thanked Mr. Brooks for his time and giving Cabinet members a better feel as to what the GIT Center does.

BUSINESS

Action

Hiring Requests Cabinet Members

In response to the Cabinet’s decision that all requests to search for and fill vacant positions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Cabinet, Dr. Bennett, Dr. McAdams, and Mr. Kinnison brought to Cabinet positions for consideration. All positions presented do not impact the salary savings identified previously to address the budget shortfall.

Student Affairs Request

Dr. Bennett presented to Cabinet members the request to search for and hire an Admissions Recruiter for the Delta region. The position was recently terminated.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Bennett to approve the searching and hiring of an Admissions Recruiter and seconded by Dr. McAdams. **The motion was approved.**

Academic Affairs Faculty Request

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet members the request to search for and hire an Instructor of Mathematics. This position will be vacated at the end of the year. The new hire will begin in August.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the searching and hiring of an Instructor of Mathematics and seconded by Dr. Groh. **The motion was approved.**

Athletics Request

In the absence of Mr. Mayers, Mr. Kinnison presented to Cabinet members the request for the ability to

search for and hire football coaches as needed. Contracts for football coaches extend January through December, and coaches may change jobs during this time. With potential hires occurring during the winter holidays, permission to search and hire requires Cabinet approval now. Athletics would like to be proactive during a potential turnover time. Any potential hire will be reported to Cabinet.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Kinnison to approve the searching and hiring of football coaches, as needed, and seconded by Dr. Groh. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Enrollment updateDr. Bennett

Dr. Bennett invited Dr. Heslep to Cabinet to give an update on our current enrollment standing. Dr. Heslep reported to Cabinet members that freshmen applications have increased by 441 from this time last year, and an additional 88 freshmen have been admitted. They have received 1,109 freshmen applications for Fall 2019, and 513 of those students have been admitted. Dr. Heslep believes this increase was helped by the Application Day on October 31. Now, the Office of Enrollment Management will work to turn the remaining applications into admissions. Transfer applications and admissions for Fall 2019 have also increased with 208 transfer applications and 57 admissions. Dr. Heslep is very pleased with the amount of applications and admissions at this time; Delta State has never had a number of admits this high in December. Freshmen applications and transfer applications for Spring 2019 are also up compared to last year. Dr. Heslep gave an update on a new venture for the Office of Enrollment Management, the Statesmen Club. This club currently has 152 members, including 137 high school students, 14 transfer students, and one former student. Delta State received information on 31% of the members through them being members of the club. No information was cataloged on the students previously. Of the total number of members, 97 are seniors, and 39 of those seniors have been admitted for Fall 2019. They have received 490 scholarship applications for Fall 2019, of which 232 qualify for scholarships. Offers have been sent out, and the Office of Enrollment Management is waiting on responses. The Dual Credit program has 770 students from 19 different schools. They will be picking up new schools in the Spring with an additional 125 students. There were 443 seniors enrolled in Dual Credit at Delta State during Fall 2018. Of the 443, 97 seniors are fully admitted to Delta State for Fall 2019. Dr. Heslep informed Cabinet members her staff has seen a lot of changes. Two recruiter positions have been filled, and they will begin on December 10. One of her transfer recruiters has moved into one of her open positions, Administrative Clerk. This recruiter will keep two of her schools as she has great relations with them.

Giving Tuesday resultsMr. Munroe

Mr. Munroe informed Cabinet members \$17,500 was raised on Giving Tuesday from fifty gifts. Through their efforts, Mr. Munroe says the university has something to build on to make next semester's giving day better. They will be able to work on their weaknesses and build upon their strengths.

Update on the scholarship match campaign.....Mr. Munroe

Mr. Munroe stated the match campaign has done very well. Through pledges and \$61,500 in received gifts, the total for the campaign is \$146,000. He hopes to bring in a little more, and hopes the one who will match the gifts will match the gifts in their entirety.

Additional information

- Mr. Brooks informed Cabinet members one of his staff members, Mr. Chris Smith, will be undergoing surgery this Friday. Also, Dr. Green stated Professor Emeritus of Biology, Dr. John Tiftickjian, was diagnosed with cancer.

- Dr. Moore invited Cabinet Members to the College of Business and Aviation Christmas party on Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Baioni Conference Center.
- Mr. Rutledge announced Cathedral Live Oak trees will be planted in front of Caylor-White-Walters this week to replace the Cypress trees removed due to their roots damaging our sewer system. The Cypress trees were repurposed to build a bridge at the soccer fields.
- Mr. Munroe announced the Delta State Post Office will be closed on Wednesday due to a day of mourning in honor of President George H. W. Bush.
- Dr. Riddle informed Cabinet members the November Staff Employee of the Month is Chelsea Hall, Senior Secretary for the Division of Languages and Literature. The Staff Council Holiday Breakfast will be Thursday, December 13 in the Kent Wyatt Hall Atrium beginning at 9:15 a.m.
- Dr. McAdams expressed his gratitude to Cabinet members and supervisors over departments for allowing their staff to volunteer on Friday for the commencement ceremonies.
- The flags in the flag plaza were lowered to half-mast by proclamation from President of the United States for thirty days in memory of the United States' 41st President, George H. W. Bush.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical, December 4, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Fall Exams, December 3-6
- Fall Commencement, December 7, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, December 10 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Cabinet Christmas Party

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.