

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: February 26, 2018**

**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, and Ms. Christie Rocconi (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

**Members not in attendance:** Mr. Jamie Rutledge

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on February 26, 2018. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Dr. Beals, seconded by Mr. Mayers, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on February 19, 2018.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge continued his campus outreach last week with visits to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.
- President LaForge and other Cabinet Members attended last week the candlelight vigil in memory of Ms. Chandler Pipkin, a junior from Olive Branch who passed away recently.
- President LaForge attended the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Higher Education Appreciation Day Luncheon. He stated it was a nice event for all of the honorees.
- Mr. Mayers attended the United Way of Cleveland-Bolivar County Recognition Reception last week as a representative for Delta State. Mr. Mayers stated the reception was well attended.
- President LaForge traveled to Greenwood on Wednesday for recruiting purposes. He spoke to Pillow Academy juniors, Delta Streets Academy juniors and seniors, and members of the Greenwood Lion's Club Youth Leadership at their annual Education Seminar. He stated each visit was a great opportunity to showcase Delta State.
- President LaForge attended the BPAC performance of Michael McDonald last week. President LaForge gave Mr. McDonald a Fighting Okra pick prior to the show, and Mr. McDonald played a set with it.
- The Major Foundations Task Force met last week. The purpose of the task force is to look at ways to approach foundations statewide and nationally. President LaForge said the group has made great progress.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. The men's and women's basketball teams won against Mississippi College on Thursday, advancing them to the Gulf South Conference Basketball Tournament. Both teams play on Tuesday. The men's team plays at Lee University and the women's team plays at Union University. The men's and women's Swimming and Diving teams did very well during the NSISC Championship by placing first and third respectively. Coach Dan'l Murray was awarded NSISC Men's Coach of the Year, and Mr. Giulio Brugnoli earned NSISC Men's High Point Swimmer. The national championship team will be announced on Wednesday. Men's tennis won their match against Lee

University over the weekend, and the men’s baseball team swept Valdosta State University. The softball team won one out of three games. The first home baseball series takes place this weekend.

- In Mr. Rutledge’s absence, President LaForge gave an update on the progress of the Young-Mauldin Cafeteria. The plumbing, concrete, and electrical components of the renovation are going strong. The biggest problem encountered was locating all of the plumbing under the building.
- President LaForge visited this morning with the Geospatial Information Technology Department and with Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity as part of his campus outreach. He had a great meeting with the GIT center and is very impressed with what they are doing.
- President LaForge gave an overview for the week ahead. He will host a Faculty and Staff luncheon on Tuesday. His guests include Ms. Devin Christian (Speech and Hearing Sciences), Mr. Tyler Hasty (Football), Mr. Edgar Parham (Facilities Management), and Ms. Catherine Putnam (Mathematics.) President LaForge was invited to be a guest lecturer for Mr. Charly Abraham’s “Meet the Beatles” course on Wednesday. President LaForge will travel to Greenville on Wednesday afternoon to give a campaign update to Ms. Anita Bologna. On Wednesday evening, Delta State University will host a dinner for Senators in Jackson. On Thursday, President LaForge will host another Faculty and Staff luncheon. His guests include Ms. Deidra Byas (Student Health Services), Mr. Dexter Davis (Facilities Management), Ms. Charlotte Litton (University Accounting), and Ms. Christie Sledge (Management, Marketing, and Business Administration.) The Gertrude C. Ford Foundation gift announcement for the Center for Teaching and Learning takes place on Thursday at 2:30 p.m. in Ewing Hall. President and Mrs. LaForge will attend the BPAC performance of RENT on Thursday. On Friday, President LaForge will welcome attendees to the Margaret Tullos Field Symposium. On Saturday, DMI hosts the Thacker Mountain Radio Show.
- President LaForge travels to Chicago on Sunday to speak at the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Mid-year meeting on Monday on the topic of Testifying before Congress.
- President LaForge and Dr. Roberts travel to Washington, D.C. for congressional visits with Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker and Congressmen Gregg Harper and Bennie Thompson on Tuesday and Wednesday. While there, President LaForge will film a Fireside Chat with Congressional Fellow Paxton Stratton, and former SGA president Allie Rose Parker.
- President LaForge reminded Cabinet Members that Spring Break for students and faculty begins on Monday, March 12.

## **CABINET TOPIC**

### **Visioning Principles update..... Cabinet Members**

Dr. Roberts presented to Cabinet Members the listing of goals for each of the Visioning Principles, which was used during the 2017 Cabinet Advance. She explained some goals have been updated according to information shared following the Cabinet Advance recap in August 2017 and other goals have been added due to Cabinet Advance discussions. Dr. Roberts asked Cabinet Members to give an update on each of their goals or to note any changes. Cabinet Members gave an update on their respective goals for Visioning Principles four through ten. *\*See Visioning Principles 2017-18 document.*

## **BUSINESS**

### **Action**

### **Mass Email for Communications policy – revised (first reading)..... Dr. Roberts**

Dr. Roberts reported to Cabinet Members that two proposed changes have been made to the Mass Email for Communications policy. The first proposed change is the addition of a sixth listserv group for Delta State

retirees. This listserv's constituency group will encompass all retiree emails created last year as well as emails for members of the Dedicated Statesmen Association. The second proposed change is to the Authorized Posting Agents spreadsheet with that addition of a new column for the Retirees-FYI listserv and the associated approvals for each posting agent. Also, an additional posting agent was added to the Authorized Posting Agents spreadsheet to include the Vice President for University Advancement and External Relations and their designee. President LaForge suggested Dr. Roberts make an additional change to the Mass Email for Communications policy of updating her title. If any Cabinet Members have any questions with regards to the policy or any changes, please communicate them to Dr. Roberts.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Roberts to approve the revised Mass Email for Communications policy for a first reading and seconded by Ms. Rocconi. **The motion was approved.**

**Discussion**

**Accident Report Form .....Dr. Bennett**

Dr. Bennett presented the Accident Report Form to Cabinet Members. The university did not have a formal document to report accidents that happen on campus. A few campus groups have their own version of this form, but the new Accident Report Form will supersede any other forms on campus. Dr. McAdams questioned the need to provide this form to all who reserve a space on campus, which led to President LaForge questioning the need for a liability waiver. President LaForge asked Dr. Bennett to contact the staff at IHL to discuss the need for a liability waiver. Dr. Bennett will take the Accident Report form to the Executive Committee for further discussion.

**Legislative Update..... Dr. Roberts**

Dr. Roberts informed Cabinet Members that students hosted their annual Student Legislative lunch last week, and she applauded the students for a job well done. Ms. Griffin stated she received great compliments from everyone involved and thanked her Governmental Affairs chair, Mr. Nicholas Walters, for a wonderful job. Dr. Roberts gave an update on the legislative session. Delta State's bill for the transfer of the Coahoma County Higher Education Center to Coahoma Community College passed the House of Representatives, and the bill is now ready for the Governor's signature. The appropriations and bond bills won't gain much traction until the end of the session. Delta State hosts its annual dinner for Senators on Wednesday in Jackson and the annual House dinner on Tuesday, March 13 in Jackson. Executive Committee members and Dr. Kent Wyatt represent the university at each dinner.

**Additional information:**

- President LaForge announced Cabinet will not meet on Monday, March 5.
- Dr. Roberts announced President LaForge's goal of having music across the campus with outdoor speakers has been piloted. Dr. Roberts will bring the topic to Cabinet on March 12 for discussion.
- President LaForge asked Cabinet Members to report on any personnel changes. Dr. Bennett has hired Mr. Jim Miller as the new Director of Career Services. He begins on June 1. Ms. Rocconi announced Dr. Christy Riddle was selected as Chair-Elect for Staff Council. Mr. Mayers announced Abby Havard was promoted to Assistant Athletic Director for Health and Sports Performance. Mr. Hundley announced that one of the graphic designers in Communications and Marketing has resigned. Dr. Roberts announced the deadline for applications for the Vice President for University Advancement and External Relations is Wednesday. Dr. Breaux informed Cabinet Members that several members of his faculty have been diagnosed with illnesses.
- Ms. Griffin announced the Women's Conference is planned for March 20-21.

- Dr. Beals announced the F. E. Woodall Conference will take place on Friday, March 23. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Dan Buchner, inventor of the Swiffer.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Academic Day for College of Arts and Sciences, February 26
- RENT, March 1, 8:00 p.m., BPAC
- Colloquia Series with Mr. Fred Smith, CEO of FedEx, March 21, 6:00 p.m., Jobe Hall
- Gladys Knight, March 22, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Winning the Race Conference, March 26-27
- International Business Symposium, March 28-29

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, March 12 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Music Across Campus project (Dr. Roberts)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.