

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: February 27, 2017

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Dr. Chris Jurgenson, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Ms. Allie Rose Parker, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: Ms. Christie Rocconi

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on February 27, 2017. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Jurgenson, seconded by Mr. Rutledge, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on February 20, 2017.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members a request from Dr. Jackie Thigpen, Superintendent of the Cleveland School District, to use the Coliseum for junior high and high school basketball games. Due to the schedules of Delta State and the Cleveland School system, this request is not viable.
- Dr. McAdams stated the School of Nursing had a great recruiting day last week, and they are being very aggressive with their recruitment of students.
- Last week, President LaForge traveled to Jackson to attend the Gertrude Ford Foundation Board meeting and the HEADWAE Luncheon. The Gertrude Ford Foundation Board Members are very supportive of Delta State and our vision. President LaForge stated Delta State would submit next fiscal year an official proposal for funding, which could have a funding stream for the next 10 to 15 years. President LaForge attended the HEADWAE Luncheon honoring outstanding students and faculty members. Ms. Parker was the student honoree and Ms. Sheryl Stump was the faculty honoree. While in Jackson, President LaForge and Dr. Roberts visited with Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves, Representative John Read, and Senator Joey Fillingane.
- President LaForge spoke to the Greenwood Lions Club Youth Leadership students last week. Forty top-notch students attended, and several of them are committed to attending Delta State.
- President LaForge reported that a meeting was held to inform the community members of the golf course closure, which is effective June 30, 2017. Mr. Rutledge shared with the community members that Delta State has received three mid-year budget cuts from the state and that it costs approximately \$250,000 to operate the golf course. Mr. Rutledge stated he has received inquiries about leasing the golf course. President LaForge stated that Delta State is not entertaining any proposals at this time, and that any inquiries should be directed to Mr. Rutledge.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. Twenty five members of the swimming and diving team were invited to compete in the NCAA DII National Championships in Birmingham, AL. The men's tennis team

did very well over the weekend and won their match against Belhaven. The baseball team won two out of three games. The women’s basketball team will play today against Valdosta and the men’s basketball team will host Shorter tomorrow night for Super Tuesday. Admission will be \$10 for adults and \$3 for students. Mr. Mayers stated Mr. Devin Schmidt is a top candidate for the Howell Trophy.

- Dr. McAdams informed Cabinet Members of two Academic Days occurring this week. Fine Arts takes place today and S.T.E.M. occurs on Friday.
- The U.S. Department of Education’s Program Review began this morning. Several members of Cabinet participated in the entrance interview. Ms. Rocconi stated additional interviews will continue throughout the week, and the exit interview will take place on Friday morning.
- President LaForge visited with two potential students this morning that are here for the Fine Arts Academic Day.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the week. On Tuesday, he participates in the Fulbright Program panel to help recruit students to the program. That evening, he will attend the BPAC performance of STOMP. President LaForge has invited local mayors to be his guests for the event. The Cleveland Music Foundation meets on Thursday prior to the opening reception for the Taylor Swift Experience. On Friday, President LaForge has his Friday Faculty meetings, and he will introduce IHL Trustee Christy Pickering at the Women’s Conference. The Mississippi Municipal League hosts their Annual Statewide Youth Leadership Summit on Delta State’s campus on Friday and Saturday. President LaForge will give the university welcome during the opening session on Saturday and will host a breakout session on leadership. DMI hosts the annual Thacker Mountain Radio Show Saturday afternoon. President LaForge and Dr. Roberts travel to Washington, D.C. next week for congressional visits and a Fireside Chat with Mr. Tyler Sullivan, the 2017 Congressional Fellow, on Monday and Tuesday.

CABINET TOPIC

Capital Campaign – Case Study President LaForge

President LaForge presented the second iteration of the Case Study for the Capital Campaign to Cabinet Members for review. President LaForge asked Cabinet Members to take ten minutes to read the Case Study and write their suggestions on the handout. President LaForge stated the campaign is in the early preparation stage and wants to get input from Cabinet Members to make sure all priorities are included within the case study. President LaForge advised Cabinet Members the Case Study is a work in progress. The dollar amount requested for the Capital Campaign has changed to \$100 million and the listing of priorities are broad in nature. Once completed, this document will be used by the consultants during the feasibility study with the top fifty prospective donors. The Case Study details what makes Delta State special in an effort to answer the questions “why us, why now, and why you?” The Case Study gives a history of Delta State and demonstrates that without private support Delta State will not be able to achieve some of its goals.

BUSINESS

Action

Drug and Alcohol Testing policy – new (final reading) Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge brought to Cabinet a new policy, Drug and Alcohol Testing, upon the approval of IHL’s legal counsel. Recognizing that drug and alcohol abuse poses a direct and substantial threat to the safety, health, and well-being of the campus community, Delta State reserves the right to test potential employees and/or current employees for alcohol and/or controlled substances pursuant to this policy. All employees of Delta State may be subject to reasonable suspicion drug and alcohol testing. If reasonable

suspicion exists, the employee’s supervisor should contact Human Resources for the testing. Mr. Rutledge stated authorized personnel have the right to inspect the workplace for alcohol, controlled substances, illegal drugs or paraphernalia related to alcohol, controlled substances, or illegal drugs and to question any employee when they reasonably suspect that this policy or any procedure under this policy has been violated.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the new Drug and Alcohol Testing policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Jurgenson. **The motion was approved.**

Restricted Funds policy – deletion (final reading) Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge brought to Cabinet the current Restricted Funds policy. Mr. Rutledge said the new Grants and Contracts policy covers everything in the Restricted Funds policy, and therefore it should be deleted.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the deletion of the Restricted Funds policy and seconded by Dr. McAdams. **The motion was approved.**

Hiring RequestsDr. McAdams/ Mr. Rutledge/Dr. Bennett

In response to the Cabinet’s decision that only those vacant positions deemed essential to university operations will be filled, and that requests to fill these essential positions be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Cabinet, Dr. McAdams, Mr. Rutledge, and Dr. Bennett brought to Cabinet several positions for consideration. All of the positions presented do not impact the salary savings identified previously to offset the mid-year budget cuts.

Academic Affairs Staff Requests:

The Department of Commercial Aviation requests to search and hire staff positions for this fiscal year. Two Aircraft Mechanic positions and a staff Flight Instructor position are open.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve searching and hiring staff positions for FY17 for the Department of Commercial Aviation and seconded by Dr. Jurgenson. **The motion was approved.**

The Center for Teaching and Learning would like to continue their search for the Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning. The new hire would be July 1, 2017.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve searching and hiring a staff position for FY18 for the Center for Teaching and Learning and seconded by Dr. Jurgenson. **The motion was approved.**

Academic Affairs Faculty Requests

The Department of Social Sciences and History has two Criminal Justice positions open and the Art Department has a position available to fill Mr. Ron Koehler’s specialty area. All faculty positions would start July 1, 2017.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve searching and hiring faculty positions for FY18 for the Department of Social Sciences and History and the Art Department and seconded by Dr. Jurgenson. **The motion was approved.**

Finance and Administration Staff Requests

Facilities Management reorganized their employees to better achieve the needs of the department. One of the grounds workers was transitioned to a head painter position. Vacant positions in HVAC and Plumbing

were transitioned into assistant painter positions. Facilities Management would like to hire the assistant painter positions and fill the grounds worker position vacated to create the head painter position.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve hiring staff positions for Facilities Management for FY17 and seconded by Mr. Mayers. **The motion was approved.**

Student Affairs Staff Request

Housing and Residence Life request approval to hire for FY17 a new Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life. This position is an auxiliary position and is not funded through Fund 10.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Bennett to approve the hire for a new Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life and seconded by Mr. Mayers. **The motion was approved.**

Honorary Degree Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts brought to Cabinet two recommendations from the Honorary Degree committee. These candidates are champions for arts, education, business, and Delta State University. They have demonstrated and continue to play an integral part in the development of Cleveland, the Delta, and Mississippi. Upon Cabinet approval, President LaForge will make the pitch to these candidates to see if they accept the offer. If the candidates accept, their names will be submitted to IHL for approval.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Roberts to approve the awarding of honorary degrees to two individuals and seconded by Mr. Mayers. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Budget Update Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet Members Delta State received another mid-year budget cut from the state, totaling \$345,663. The cuts experienced this fiscal year will likely carryover to FY18. The next phase of the FY18 budget timeline is the request for “new and expanded activities.” This information is due to Mr. Rutledge on March 10. New and expanded activities include requests for new personnel, market increases, replacement of or addition to equipment and furniture, or any increase to items in ongoing operations.

Legislative Update Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts elaborated on the meetings she and President LaForge had with Chairman Read, Chairman Fillingane, and Lieutenant Governor Reeves. She distributed a document (*see attached*) that was given to Chairman John Read detailing the four line items Delta State has in the appropriations bill. The purpose of the document is to give Chairman Read a better understanding of the line items since he is new in this position. President LaForge and Dr. Roberts asked Chairman Read for his support this year and going forward. Dr. Roberts stated he was very receptive, and stated he was supportive of Delta State’s endeavors. President LaForge and Dr. Roberts had a sidebar meeting with Chairman Joey Fillingane and made him aware of Delta State’s bond bill request. They met with Lieutenant Governor Reeves to discuss the new President’s home and had a good meeting. Dr. Roberts informed Cabinet Members the bond and appropriations bills were introduced last week. Both bills should be finalized the third week of March. Dr. Roberts is traveling to Jackson tonight to help host a reception with other IHL universities for the Universities and Colleges committees and the Chairmen of the Ways and Means committees and the Appropriations committees. The deadline for committees to take action on their bills is tomorrow. The land lease bill will go to the floor for action by March 3. If no changes are made, it will go to Governor Bryant for his signature.

Colloquia Series – Spring 2017 Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts announced that Dr. LouAnn Woodward, Vice-Chancellor for Health Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, accepted President LaForge’s invitation to be the Colloquia Series speaker for the spring. The lecture will take place on Wednesday, April 12 and she will speak on the topic of Healthcare in Mississippi. Dr. Woodward will participate in a Fireside Chat with President LaForge, attend the pre-event reception with community members, give her lecture at 6:00 p.m. in Jobe Hall Auditorium, attend the post-event reception, and attend a dinner with the Executive Committee. Dr. Roberts asked Cabinet Members to spread the word to their respective constituencies to build a crowd for the event.

Other Discussion

- Ms. Parker informed Cabinet Members petitions for SGA elections have gone out and elections will take place next week.
- The College of Education and Human Sciences hosted the Math-Science Partnership for math educators in the Delta over the weekend. Dr. Griffin announced it was a great day and she received positive feedback.
- Mr. Mayers announced baseball and softball have home games this week. The swimming and diving teams will compete Wednesday through Saturday of next week in Birmingham.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- STOMP performance, BPAC, February 28, 7:30 pm
- SGA’s Student Legislative Day, State Capitol, march 9, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Winning the Race Conference, March 27-28
- International Business Symposium, March 29-30
- Colloquia Lecture Series, Dr. LouAnn Woodward, April 12, 6:00 pm, Jobe Auditorium

NEXT MEETING:

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

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.