

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: January 10, 2022

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vicki Bingham, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Mr. Rick Munroe, Dr. Andy Novobilski, Ms. Nakikke Wallace, Dr. Andrew Wegmann, and Mr. William Young (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Michelle Roberts and Mr. Jamie Rutledge

Guests: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on January 10, 2022. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Novobilski and seconded by Ms. Wallace, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on December 7, 2021.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from last few weeks. President LaForge, Dr. Novobilski, and other university representatives participated in the SACSCOC Annual Meeting as part of the university's reaffirmation process. The Mountain Holiday with Chole Agnew, John Driskell, Balsam Range, and Atlanta Pops Orchestra performed at the BPAC. President LaForge performed with members of the DMI faculty at the Hey Joe's Graduation Jam. President LaForge continued his departmental visits with a meeting with Food Services staff. The Robert E. Smith School of Nursing held their annual White Coat Ceremony and Pinning Ceremony. President LaForge had lunches with Mayor Billy Nowell, Dr. Wayne Blansett, and Dr. Kent Wyatt. The Office of Academic Affairs hosted two Commencement ceremonies and a luncheon in between ceremonies for all faculty and volunteers. The Cleveland Volunteer Fire Department held their annual Firemen's Ball. President LaForge participated in the NCAA DII Implementation Committee Co-Chair meeting. President LaForge and Mr. Munroe had lunch with newly elected State Representative Robert Sanders. President LaForge attended the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce's Speaker Series featuring a panel of legislative representatives. The Office of University Advancement held a well-attended social for Delta State retirees. Mr. Rutledge hosted a cookout for Facilities Management staff prior to the holidays, and the Executive Committee served food at the event. Last week, President LaForge participated in a teleconference with Dr. Thomas Dobbs, Commissioner Al Rankins, and the other IEOs regarding COVID-19 related issues.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The men's and women's basketball teams competed in six games and five games, respectively. Their records are 3-3 and 3-2. Both basketball teams are on the road this week to compete against Valdosta State University and University of West Florida. The swimming and diving teams hosted the DSU Christmas Invitational and placed second overall. They

competed last week against University of Montevallo, Birmingham-Southern College, and Henderson State University and won all meets. All student-athletes reported back to campus today, and all spring-sport student-athletes begin practice today.

- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. Tomorrow, President LaForge will participate in the weekly teleconference with Commissioner Al Rankins and the IEOs regarding COVID-19 related issues. President LaForge will film tomorrow his first installment of Statesmen Insider for the Spring 2022 semester. They will discuss the new academic semester. The GSC Board of Directors meet tomorrow. The House and Senate Appropriation sub-committees meet tomorrow, and Mr. Munroe will represent Delta State at both meetings. The administration from Jackson Academy will visit Delta State on Wednesday, and their visit will focus on the School of Nursing, Delta Music Institute, and Commercial Aviation. The Executive Committee will host them for lunch. President LaForge and Dr. Novobilski will meet with Dr. Beverly Moon on Friday to discuss the SACSCOC reaffirmation process and the university's next steps. The Martin Luther King holiday is Monday, January 17, and the next Cabinet meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

None

Additional Information

- Dr. Wegmann asked for clarification on the procedure a faculty member should take if a student contacts them about a positive COVID-19 diagnosis. Dr. Lovin stated the faculty member should refer the student to Student Health Services at studenthealth@deltastate.edu. The Student Health Center will require the student to submit documentation of their positive diagnosis, and Student Health Services will contact the student's professors about the student's excusable absences.
- Mr. Munroe announced the Delta State University Foundation received more than \$940,000 in gifts for the month of December.
- Dr. Lovin announced the Office of Student Life has three student events scheduled for this week: 1) Union Take Over, 2) Coffee Q&A with Student Life, and 3) a mentalist performance. The events will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- Dr. Lovin announced representatives from Prosper & Partner will be on campus this week for their first of three visits. During their time on campus, the representatives will conduct a 360° review of the division of Student Affairs to look for any hindrances that prevent students from being successful at Delta State.
- Dr. Lovin announced he and Ms. Wallace have a conference call with a representative from Charles Schwab later this month to discuss internships for Delta State students.
- Dr. Lovin announced he will be out of office part of next week. He was asked to be a Faculty in Residence for the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association conference.

- Dr. Lovin announced 637 students are currently living in student housing.
- The Mississippi Municipal League will host their Annual Youth Summit on Delta State's campus on February 25 and February 26.
- President LaForge requested Dr. Lovin provide an enrollment report at the next Cabinet meeting.
- Dr. Wegmann announced *Mississippi Today* will attend the next Faculty Senate meeting. Also, today is publication day for Dr. Wegmann's new book.
- Dr. Novobilski announced 200 high school students will be on campus this weekend for the Delta State Honor Band Weekend.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Classes begin, January 10, 2022
- Martin Luther King Holiday, January 17
- Summer: The Donna Summer Musical, January 25, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Tuesday, January 18, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.