

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: July 15, 2019

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Ms. Tricia Killebrew, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Beverly Moon, Mr. Rick Munroe, Mr. Cetin Oguz, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Ms. Elizabeth Swindle (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Vernell Bennett 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 July 15, 2019. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Ms. Swindle and seconded by Mr. Oguz, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on June 24, 2019.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge and all other IEOs received a letter from Mr. Brian Peters and his campaign for the Magnolia Flag to replace the Mississippi State Flag. His goal is to make this a ballot issue in the election.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from the past week. The Legislative Facilities Tour went very well. Members of Mississippi's legislature, representatives from the Bureau of Buildings, and IHL staff members were very appreciative of the improvements made to campus such as Young Mauldin Cafeteria and Zeigel Hall, as well as our needs. President LaForge hosted a luncheon last week with community leaders to give an update on campus and showcased the cafeteria renovations. President LaForge welcomed middle school and high school students of the Summer Youth Entrepreneurship Program to campus during their visit. The third New Student Orientation took place last week, and it was very well attended. All members of the New Student Orientation team did a superb job. Dr. Bennett reported this morning the Office of Admissions met their goal of 600 registered students for the fall. The Capps Archives and Museum has a new exhibit on display honoring the Mississippi Delta Chinese called "Re-Entry Mississippi: 50 Years of the Apollo Program." The Greater Jackson Alumni hosted their annual Alumni Meeting last week, and Mr. Munroe was very pleased with the turnout.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members the Department of Education Financial Aid Audit findings resulted in \$269,000 worth of fines. The university budgeted for \$150,000 for FY20. President LaForge has asked Dr. Bennett and Mr. Rutledge to reach out to the Department of Education to set up a payment schedule in order to pay over multiple years. Dr. Moon, in an effort to be proactive, will report the audits findings and fees to SACSCOC.
- Delta State has received a green rating from FIRE after reviewing policies in order to make sure we are good stewards of freedom of speech.

- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members that internal control issues were discovered recently dealing with the financial aspects of the Delta State University Foundation. He and Mr. Munroe are working with the President of the Foundation and other officials to resolve the issue.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. Mr. Rodney Batts was hired as the Head Baseball Coach. The Walter Sillers Coliseum project has begun in order to start the basketball season on time. Coaches and staff are planning for upcoming seasons, and they have begun working on their student-athlete eligibilities.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. President LaForge attended the Bolivar County Board of Supervisors meeting this morning to give a university update, and the Supervisors were very receptive. Communications and Marketing created a new name and format for President LaForge’s Fireside Chat segments. The segment will last two minutes and twenty seconds. On Tuesday, President LaForge will meet the leaders of the Baptist Student Union, Mr. Josh Warren and Mr. Andrew Kappenman. The next Cabinet meeting will be Monday, August 12.

CABINET TOPIC

Visioning Principles #9 Ms. Killebrew

Ms. Killebrew presented to Cabinet Members an end-of-year update on the progress of addressing the goals for Visioning Principle #9 as established at last year’s Cabinet Advance (see reports). The Executive Committee agreed to start in September the process of presenting goals for the 2019-20 year.

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

Scholarship Management System Task Force Dr. Roberts

Following the Cabinet Advance last week, Dr. Roberts gave Cabinet members an update on a few items discussed during the Scholarship Management System session. Dr. Roberts shared a revised listing of potential task force members in order for Cabinet members to make any final suggestions before selections are made by President LaForge. Representatives from Retention/Student Success Center and Students are still needed. Ms. Killebrew and Ms. Swindle provided suggestions for the needed representatives. President LaForge expressed his gratitude for Cabinet member’s contributions.

Convocation ScheduleDr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams shared the Convocation schedule with Cabinet members. The schedule remains unchanged from years past. New faculty and staff orientations begin on Wednesday, August 14. President LaForge’s State of the University Address will be given on Thursday, August 15 at 3:00 p.m. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce will host their annual Welcome Back Reception for Delta State faculty and staff Thursday evening at 5:30 p.m. at The Warehouse. The Welcome Back Luncheon sponsored by President and Mrs. LaForge and the Administrative Staff Council is at 12:00 noon on Friday. The schedules have been vetted through all offices involved, and Human Resources will be sending out the schedule to all faculty and staff very soon.

Additional information

- Mr. Munroe announced Communications and Marketing hired a new Photographer/Videographer, Mr. Campbell Saia. Mr. David Ferriss was hired as the Academic Development Officer.
- Mr. Kinnison announced the Assistant Athletic Trainer position is open.
- Ms. Killebrew informed Cabinet members the DSU LEADS program has completed three sessions, and the group is beginning to brainstorm service projects.
- Ms. Swindle is preparing for the SGA retreat, and she is very pleased with the participation of her Cabinet.
- Dr. McAdams announced Delta State will gain twelve to fifteen new faculty for the academic year.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- End of four day work week, Thursday, August 8
- Pre-Convocation gathering, Thursday, August 15, 2:00 p.m., Green Room in BPAC
- Convocation, Thursday, August 15, 3:00 p.m., BPAC
- Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce's Welcome Back Reception for faculty and staff, Thursday August 15, 5:30 p.m., The Warehouse Restaurant
- Welcome Back luncheon for faculty and staff, Friday, August 16, 12:00 noon, Second Floor, H.L. Nowell Union
- Day and night classes begin, August 19
- President's Ice Cream Social for new students, Wednesday, August 21, 5:30 p.m., Nowell Union, Second Floor, West Lobby

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, August 12 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Cabinet Advance recap (President LaForge)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:27p.m.