

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: July 6, 2021**

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

**Members not in attendance:** None

**Guests:** None

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on July 6, 2021. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

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

On motion by Mr. Rutledge and seconded by Dr. Bingham, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on June 28, 2021.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge welcomed Cabinet members to the first in-person meeting since March 2020, to the first Cabinet meeting of the fiscal year, and to the first Cabinet meeting for our two new vice presidents Dr. Lovin and Dr. Novobilski. President LaForge thanked Mr. Kinnison, Dr. Leslie Griffin, and their search committees for bringing to Delta State two wonderful additions.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. The fourth Orientation session occurred last week, and approximately 80 students were in attendance. Ms. Michelle Johansen, Dr. Natasha Barnes, and Ms. FaDerricka Harvey provided President LaForge with an update on plans for the 2022 Winning the Race Conference. The Marshall Tucker Band performed at the BPAC last Thursday evening.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Repairs and renovations continue in Lawler-Harkins Hall, Cain-Tatum Hall, and Fugler-Hammett Hall — the project is 60% complete and is ahead of schedule. Lawler-Harkins Hall will be hooked up to the university chiller tomorrow. The flooring for Brumby Castle Hall is being installed today, and it will be completed by early next week. The campus-wide elevator project is on schedule. The elevator in the Roberts-LaForge Library will be completed upon delivery and installation of some controls. The roofing project is delayed until the beginning of August. The contractors are temporarily patching the roofs to avoid leaks, which would destroy the recent renovations made within the residence halls. Leaks were patched on Ewing Hall, Bailey Hall, and the residence halls. The convenience store located in the Young-Mauldin Cafeteria is being moved to the H. L. Nowell Student Union in order to serve more students. The installation and move will be completed soon. Also, the Radio Station move is almost complete. The university experienced a water main leak last week at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Highway 8.

- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. They had 65 student-athletes to report to campus today for their summer workouts. These athletes will be on campus approximately four weeks. Renovations on the soccer “game field” began today, and it should be completed in two weeks. The summer months are a time for coaches to recruit and reengineer their programs, as well as for the Athletics Department to modify their policies and procedures to adhere to any new NCAA or GSC policies.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce met this morning. The Bolivar County Bar Association and U.S. District Court will host a portrait hanging ceremony and reception this afternoon in celebration of the life of Mr. Robert G. Johnston. President LaForge will participate in a conference call with IHL staff and the other Institutional Executive Officers from the regional universities on Wednesday to discuss dual enrollment. President LaForge will have lunch with Dr. Kent Wyatt and Dr. Ned Mitchell this week to discuss community relations. Delta State’s Kappa Delta alumni are hosting a reunion this weekend, and President LaForge has invited them to a reception at his home on Friday. On Thursday evening, President LaForge will host a reunion, via Zoom, with his Cambridge University classmates.

**CABINET TOPIC**

None

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

None

**Discussion**

**Cabinet Advance..... Dr. Roberts**

Dr. Roberts gave Cabinet Members an overview of the agenda for the Cabinet Advance, which is scheduled for Tuesday, July 20 and Wednesday, July 21. The Cabinet Advance will be held at the President’s home. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served on site at 7:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. respectively. The discussions will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. Discussion topics include a budget snapshot; the campus master plan and golf course; a tour of the residence halls; fundraising and capital campaign; COVID-19 plans for Fall 2021; enrollment management; a 360° review of the areas of the new vice presidents; Cabinet topics for 2021-22 and, key calendar items. Dr. Roberts stated the Advance will give Cabinet members an opportunity to unplug from their daily responsibilities and to dig deeper into topics than time allows during a regular Cabinet meeting.

**Additional information**

- Mr. Munroe shared with Cabinet members an update on the RSVP count for the Foundation’s Green and White Gala. He asked Cabinet members to contact him if they have any donors with a cumulative giving of \$10,000 or more that should be invited.
- Mr. Munroe announced Delta Legislative Day is scheduled for August 4. Delta-area legislators will visit Delta State, GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi, and will visit with city officials.
- Mr. Rutledge shared with Cabinet members that he requested the Bureau of Buildings to transfer \$155,000 into our account in order to complete the construction documents for the School of Nursing renovation project. Once the documents are approved and bond funds are available in November, the renovation project can begin. The 2020 bond funds were sold and so the Foundation Hall renovation

process can begin. An architect is scheduled to meet with Mr. Rutledge, Dr. Lovin, and Dr. Lovin's staff to discuss Foundation Hall and its needed renovations. Mr. Rutledge has transferred some Higher Education Emergency Relief funds to our auxiliary account to pay for new equipment for the residence halls, and he will discuss the needs with Ms. Julie Jackson.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Wayne Blansett Staff Development Day, July 15
- Green and White Foundation Gala, July 17, 6:00 p.m., The Lyric Hotel
- Cabinet Advance, July 20-21, President's Home
- Orientation Session #5, July 27

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, July 12 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.