

**DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**PRESIDENT'S CABINET**  
*Minutes*

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**Meeting date: June 18, 2018**

**Members in attendance:** President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Dr. Severine Groh, Mr. Charlie King, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Christy Riddle, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

**Members not in attendance:** Dr. Billy Moore and Dr. Michelle Roberts

**Guests:** Mr. Rick Munroe, Vice President for University Advancement and External Relations

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on June 18, 2018. 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. McAdams, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on June 4, 2018.

**GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- Dr. Bennett announced her recent engagement. Cabinet Members extended sincere congratulations to her and her fiancé, Mr. Patrick Fairs.
- Mr. Mayers announced his forthcoming retirement after 47 years at Delta State. Mr. Mayers said he has never thought of his time at Delta State as a job, has had the pleasure of working and meeting wonderful people, and hasn't been away from the university more than a week in 43 years. President LaForge stated the university would have many chances to say thank you and to congratulate Mr. Mayers during the upcoming semester.
- Two weeks ago, President LaForge met with Mr. Peter Woods, owner of Peter's Pottery in Mound Bayou, for a campaign update and a tour of campus. President LaForge stated he is a very loyal alumnus and gives back to the university regularly.
- President LaForge had the pleasure of welcoming TFA Corps members and TFA staff members to Cleveland and Delta State during their TFA Induction ceremony two weeks ago.
- President LaForge and Mr. Keith Fulcher met with the president of the Woodward Hines Education Foundation, Mr. Jim McHale, recently. Mr. McHale, formerly with the Kellogg Foundation, has taken on this new foundation that was derived from a former student loan business. Mr. McHale conveyed to President LaForge the Woodward Hines Education Foundation likes Delta State's initiatives, projects, and ideas.
- President LaForge and Mr. Munroe met with Mr. Ethan Callahan to discuss a direction and vision for the Radio Station. President LaForge thanked Mr. Hundley for recruiting Mr. Callahan to the position.
- President and Mrs. LaForge attended the retirement dinner of Senator Thad Cochran two weeks ago. President LaForge stated it was an incredible event with great attendance. President LaForge was able

to sit with Senator Cochran at the event and to provide remarks in honor of Senator Cochran.

- Mr. Hundley and Mr. Munroe gave an update on two alumni events. Mr. Munroe stated the Memphis Alumni Event was well attended by 50-60 alumni, and he thanked Dr. McAdams for speaking on behalf of the university. Mississippi on the Mall was a great event, but Delta State does not have a large pool of alumni in the area. Delta State was represented by President LaForge, Ms. Amanda Robinson, and Ms. Sayward Fortner.
- Dr. Bennett gave an overview of the first Orientation session. She stated the first session went well. Several needed changes were made throughout the day to be carried over into the last two sessions, such as: receiving registration pins 24-48 hours prior to the session; transcripts will be in the system; a second serving line for lunch will be housed on the second floor of the union as the cafeteria will not hold everyone; and, students will be split into smaller registration groups as deans will have an accurate account of which faculty members will be in attendance at each session. Students and parents appreciated having Student Business Services, Admissions, Registrar’s Office, and Financial Aid available at registration in Walter-Sillers Coliseum. Dr. McAdams stated parents and students were engaged throughout the session and seemed happy to be on campus.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. Athletic camps are going strong and continue this week. One football camp last week had more than 200 participants. The camps occurring this week are baseball, softball, and football. Mr. Mayers announced Mr. Roger Tollison was hired as the Assistant Athletic Trainer.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Statesmen Boulevard saw a lot of progress last week with paving. The sidewalks are finished and every fourth section boasts a stamp of the Statesmen. Collins Construction will complete the final touches on the second floor of Zeigel Hall this week allowing the moving process to begin this week or next week. The entire project should be completed within two weeks. The contractor for Young-Mauldin Cafeteria stated the project will be complete by the end of August, so the temporary cafeteria may be used for a few weeks at the beginning of the Fall semester. Mr. Rutledge is looking into ribbon cuttings for Statesmen Boulevard and Zeigel Hall.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the week. On Tuesday, President LaForge, along with Mississippi State University President Mark Keenum, will host a press conference to introduce the Local Government Leadership Institute. Following the press conference, President LaForge will host the fifth annual Mayors’ Summit. President LaForge and members of his Executive Committee will travel to Jackson on Wednesday for meetings and to attend the Finance Committee and IHL Board meetings on Thursday. President LaForge will participate in a conference call on Thursday to discuss the NCAA DII Conference Grant program.
- Mr. Hundley stated that the Mississippi in the Park in Atlanta, GA takes place this weekend. Delta State will be represented by Ms. Amanda Robinson.

**CABINET TOPIC**

None

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

**Academic Honesty Policy – revised (final reading).....Dr. McAdams**  
Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet Members the revised Academic Honesty policy approved by the Academic Council for a final reading. He explained to Cabinet Members it was the thought of Academic

Council that different interpretations and implementations of the Academic Honesty policy were being used throughout the university, and they thought it best to update the policy to reflect procedure and implementation. Dr. McAdams stated the policy was further updated to specify a second violation of the Academic Honesty policy would go to the Academic Honesty Committee. Dr. Roberts' suggested edits for the policy were made, including moving the information under Procedures and Responsibilities regarding cheating and plagiarism to the definitions portion of the policy and enumerating the different processes within the Penalties for Dishonesty portion of the policy.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the revised Academic Honesty policy for a final reading and seconded by Mr. King. The motion was approved.

**Discussion**

**Personnel Updates..... Cabinet**

President LaForge asked Cabinet Members to give an update on any personnel changes occurring in their area. Dr. Riddle announced an International Admissions Specialist position was open within the Student Success Center, but it was filled by DSU alumnus, Ms. Rosalyn Dickey. Also, the Student Success Center is in the process of hiring an SOS Coordinator. Dr. Bennett announced the Coordinator of Student Activities position was filled by Ms. Allie Rowe. Mr. Munroe informed Cabinet Members two of his open positions, Director of Development and Director of Communications and Marketing, have been posted.

**Additional information:**

- Dr. Riddle informed Cabinet Members the Employee of the Month guidelines have been updated, and all employees are now eligible to be nominated for Employee of the Month.
- Dr. Riddle announced LaTrobe University from Australia will be on campus on Tuesday during their "When the Levee Breaks" tour from Memphis to New Orleans. During their time here, they will speak with Dr. McAdams about a potential partnership.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Local Government Leadership Institute Press Conference, June 19, 1:00 p.m., Leroy E. Morganti Atrium, Kent Wyatt Hall
- Mayors' Summit, June 19, 1:30 p.m., Simmons Room, Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House
- Orientation Session II, June 28
- Cabinet Advance, July 10-11, Jacks Barnhouse

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, June 25 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.