

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: June 24, 2019

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Beverly Moon, Mr. Rick Munroe, Mr. Cetin Oguz, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Ms. Tricia Killebrew and Ms. Elizabeth Swindle

Guests: Dr. Kent Wyatt, President Emeritus

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on June 24, 2019. 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. Moon, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on June 17, 2019.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from the past week. The NCAA BOG Ad Hoc Committee on Sports Wagering held a conference call last week. President LaForge attended the Institutional Executive Officers meeting last week. Major topics of discussion included: the creation of an Alumni Advocacy group consisting of five to ten alumni from each university for the purpose of lobbying for the system; the creation of a Bachelor of Applied Technology degree; alcohol sales on campus; and, the IHL system approach for the FY21 appropriations which recommends a six year plan for general funding (E&G) to get to the SREB average in each field for all employees. The IHL Board met on Thursday, and they approved Mr. Munroe as Delta State's legislative liaison, Delta State's rehired retirees, Delta State's annual operating budget, and held a first reading on Foundation Affiliated Entities policy.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The Athletic Department staff have met several times this summer to plan for the year ahead. The search for the new Head Baseball Coach continues. Mr. Kinnison hopes to finalize the search this week.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on facilities projects. The Legislative Facilities Tour occurs tomorrow, June 26, beginning at 11:00 a.m. in Young-Mauldin Cafeteria. The pre-bid meeting for the roofing project on Holcombe-Norwood Building and the Facilities Management Building takes place on Tuesday, as well. The decree to start construction on Walter-Sillers Coliseum will be issued this week, and the contractors should be onsite within two weeks. Delta State representatives will meet with MDOT to discuss the contract and present our plans for the sidewalk project in two weeks. The Hill Apartments project should be finished in two to three weeks. The renovation of the Morgan Laundry Building will be complete by the beginning of school. Another meeting will take place to discuss the replacement of

the dectron units in the Aquatics Center. Delta State representatives, IHL representatives, and the vendors for the development of the golf course will meet next week to discuss the next steps. The contract for the President’s home has been signed, and the construction has begun.

- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. New Student Orientation Session II takes place today. Dr. Bennett informed Cabinet members 197 present students were present.

CABINET TOPIC

Visioning Principles #4-10Dr. Bennett, Dr. McAdams, Mr. Kinnison, Mr. Munroe, and Mr. Oguz
Dr. Bennett, Dr. McAdams, Mr. Kinnison, Mr. Munroe, and Mr. Oguz presented to Cabinet Members an end-of-year update on the progress of addressing the goals for Visioning Principles #4-10 as established at last year’s Cabinet Advance (see reports). Dr. Roberts requested Cabinet members send all electronic progress reports on the Visioning Principles to Ms. Cole.

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

Cabinet Advance..... Dr. Roberts
Dr. Roberts gave Cabinet Members an overview of the Cabinet Advance scheduled for Tuesday, July 9. The Cabinet Advance will be held at the Sanders Studio, and directions to the facility will be emailed to Cabinet Members prior to the Cabinet Advance. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served on site 7:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. respectively. The discussions will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. Discussion topics include the Scholarship Management System, the campus master plan, and the Strategic Plan. Guests from campus will attend to help flesh out the topic for each discussion.

Organizational Chart..... Dr. Roberts
Dr. Roberts distributed the draft FY20 organizational chart for a final review. She informed Cabinet members to send any changes to Ms. Cole prior to July 1 as the document will be final that day.

Tree Removal Mr. Rutledge
Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet members a tree on the Quadrangle across from Fielding Wright Art Center is diseased, and it needs to be removed. The tree will be removed next week.

IHL Finance Committee Presentation Mr. Rutledge
Mr. Rutledge presented the Financial Sustainability Overview to Cabinet members. The Board of Trustees wishes institutions to engage opportunities from positions of financial sustainability. Although the Board of Trustees guarantees debt with the entire IHL system’s revenue, the Board of Trustees expects each institution to operate within their own resources. Each year the Commissioner must determine if institutions are sustainable based on the following criteria: adequate reserves, adequate cash, and adequate coverage of debt payments. The Commissioner will meet annually with the Institutional Executive Officers to discuss financial sustainability, and this is a component of the IEO’s evaluation. Delta State’s projected financial sustainability for FY19 fares well in terms of debt service coverage and long-

term liabilities unrestricted net assets; however, Delta State needs to increase their days of cash on hand.

IHL Budget Approval Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet members the IHL Board of Trustees approved Delta State’s annual operating budget. He shared with Cabinet members a presentation he prepared for the IHL Finance Committee meeting last week. Delta State’s budget for FY20 is \$48,661,686 which is \$1,090,537 more than last fiscal year’s budget. The budget shows an increase in appropriations due to a mandated increase in PERS and health insurance funded by the State. Mr. Rutledge stated the bulk of Delta State’s expenses are in salaries, wages, and fringes.

Additional information

- Dr. Roberts shared with Cabinet members the Administrative Secretary in the President’s Office, Ms. Shelby Holcomb, has resigned to continue her education, and Thursday will be her last day. Ms. Phyllis Thornton from Counseling and Student Health Services will join the President’s Office as the new Administrative Secretary on July 1.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Orientation Session II, June 24
- Fourth of July holiday, July 4-5
- Orientation Session III, July 8
- Cabinet Advance, July 9, Sanders Studio (Cleveland)

NEXT MEETING:

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

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.