

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: June 6, 2022

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Ms. Caroline Fletcher, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Ms. Lucia Chacon Habis, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Eddie Lovin (by phone), Mr. Rick Munroe, Dr. Andy Novobilski, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Joshua Armstrong

Guests: Dr. Andrew Wegmann, Past President, Faculty Senate

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on June 6, 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 Mr. Rutledge, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on May 18, 2022.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from the last two weeks. The Administrative Staff Council hosted their annual Wayne Blansett Staff Development Day. The IHL Board of Trustees held their monthly meeting, and President LaForge formally introduced Dr. Lovin and Dr. Novobilski to the Board of Trustees, Commissioner Al Rankins, and the other Institutional Executive Officers. President LaForge participated in a virtual meeting with Casey Family Programs to discuss current initiatives. President LaForge visited Delta State's sister institution, the University of National and World Economy (UNWE), in Bulgaria. During his time there, President LaForge initiated discussions and plans with officials at UNWE to collaborate with its Institute of Postgraduate Studies in offering courses in a number of disciplines that would result in students and practitioners earning a professional development certificate. The first session of Summer School began on May 25. The Gulf South Conference held their annual meeting last week. Dr. Kent Wyatt was inducted into the 2020 Hall of Fame Class, and alumnus Scott Eyster, who was the quarterback for the Statesmen football team from 2003 – 2006, was inducted into the 2022 Hall of Fame Class. President LaForge thanked Mr. Kinnison for providing Dr. Wyatt's remarks at the Hall of Fame ceremony and representing Delta State well.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The contractor for the campus-wide roofing project missed their deadline, and they have begun to pay liquidated damages. The project should be completed in approximately two weeks. The parking lot behind Fugler-Hammett Hall will be completed this week. Repair of the Whitfield Hall roof was sent out for bid. Additional roofs to be repaired soon are Jobe Hall, Holcombe-Norwood Hall, and Kent Wyatt Hall. The roof on the Dave "Boo" Ferriss Museum was repaired, and additional repairs will be made inside the museum due to water damage. Due to the vast number of projects to be completed this fiscal year, Mr. Rutledge is going to

enlist the assistance and services of the Bureau of Building to help manage the projects. The Bureau of Building guarantees they will be able to save the university funds on projects, which will cover the cost of their service fees. The School of Nursing project has not started yet due to a change order issue. The excess cash funds provided by the State to use for bond projects is still under discussion by IHL and the Bureau of Building on how to report the funds and on how to distribute the funds to the universities.

- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. Mr. Kinnison stated it was an honor to step in for Dr. Wyatt at the Hall of Fame ceremony and to see former football player Scott Eyster and football coach Rick Rhodes at the event. During the Gulf South Conference Annual Meeting, the topic of inter-conference transfer was discussed at length and there were different opinions on how best to handle the transfers. Mr. Kinnison stated several sports are hosting camps this summer, including instructional camps and prospect/identification camps. Mr. Kinnison needs to hire three coaches and a strength and conditioning coach this summer. The Athletics' Department and Foundation are hosting a Vision event in Hernando on Thursday.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday for their monthly meeting. President LaForge has a planning interview with the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area on Tuesday to discuss strategic planning. The Foundation is hosting another Vision event on Thursday in Hernando. A celebration of life mass will be held on Saturday beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church for Delta State's oldest graduate Jutta Karnstedt Ferretti. Delta State alumnus Steve Azar's Delta Soul Celebrity Golf and Charity Event benefitting the St. Cecilia Foundation will be held this this weekend. President and Mrs. LaForge will attend the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Annual Banquet on Saturday.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

FY22 Budget Status Update..... Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge gave an update on the FY22 budget status. His staff is monitoring spending closely to ensure no departments exceed their budgets. IHL has requested projections of the university's cash and financial ratios for FY22 and FY23. The university is meeting expectations and should report an increase in our days of cash at year end.

FY23 Budget Plans Update Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge completed the university's Annual Operating Budget; however, the final budget figure for the university's budget will be larger than reported at the last Cabinet meeting. The final budget figure is larger due to the addition of \$323,000 of FY22 Repair and Renovation funds re-appropriated to FY23, and the \$2.4 million Repair and Renovation funds set aside for the purchase of planes for the Commercial Aviation Department. The excess cash funds provided to each university for bond projects will not be reported in E&G funds. Mr. Rutledge will send updated FY23 budget documents to Cabinet members for inclusion in their budget notebook.

Enrollment Update/Overview Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin provided an enrollment update. Graduate enrollment continues to exceed all marks, thanks to the work of the Graduate Admissions office. He shared with Cabinet members the university has 468 new undergraduate students for Fall 2022. Dr. Christy Riddle and her staff are reaching out to students who did not pre-register to encourage them to register for Fall classes. Dr. Megan Smith and her staff are working with students on financial needs.

Institutional Effectiveness and Planning update Dr. Novobilski

Dr. Novobilski announced Dr. Beverly Moon, as the university’s SACSCOC liaison, will participate in a call on June 16 to discuss the results of the university’s monitoring report. Delta State employees are preparing to attend the 2022 Institute on Quality Enhancement and Accreditation in July. Dr. Griffin announced the College of Education and Human Sciences received continuing accreditation for the next seven years by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

Additional Information

- Dr. Roberts shared with Cabinet members the tentative dates for Cabinet Advance, and she asked Cabinet members to hold the dates on their calendars. The dates are Monday, August 1 and Tuesday, August 2.
- Dr. Roberts announced the four-day work week schedule may end a week earlier than scheduled. Typically, the four-day work week ends the week prior to Convocation to accommodate faculty and staff meetings the Friday following Convocation. The Executive Committee will discuss the potential change and bring it to Cabinet for a vote.
- Mr. Rutledge announced Delta State received an abundance of volunteers to serve at the Delta Council Annual Meeting luncheon on June 17. For the luncheon, there will not be tickets this year. All guests and volunteers will be allowed to partake in the luncheon. The Black Hawk helicopter will land on the quadrangle on Thursday, June 16. Mr. Rutledge will send an email to campus to inform them of the time.
- Mr. Rutledge announced the annual Legislative Facilities Tour will take place on Tuesday, June 21 at 12:30 p.m. All Cabinet members are invited to attend lunch at that time. Mr. Rutledge will make a presentation to the Bureau of Buildings staff, State Legislators, and State staff regarding the university’s facilities, and he will provide a tour.
- Mr. Rutledge announced Mr. Murat Gur was selected by the Administrative Staff Council as the Employee of the Month for May.
- Mr. Rutledge and his staff are reviewing a service provided by LinkedIn that offers companies unlimited workshops and seminars on developing professional skills to provide additional support to university employees.
- Mr. Munroe announced the Foundation has raised \$3.4 million so far this year.
- Mr. Munroe attended the recent memorial service of Dr. Fred Pittman and had the opportunity to visit with the family.
- Mr. Munroe announced that on Monday, June 13, the Foundation will host an event honoring the legacy of Dr. James Broom. All former presidents of Delta State will be represented at the event through either their attendance, representation by a family member, or sending their remarks to be read at the event.
- Ms. Fletcher shared with Cabinet members the staff of Communications and Marketing attended the College Public Relations Association of Mississippi Conference last week, and the staff won a total of 12 awards for their marketing efforts the past year.

- Ms. Habis announced she was selected as the Vice President for the Student Government Presidents of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. At the Student Government Presidents' meeting in May, they discussed options for a system-wide project to ask the Board of Trustees to fund, as well as, the possibility of requesting an additional holiday in order to vote in the November General Election.
- Dr. Novobilski announced Faculty Development Day will be held August 11, and Mr. Colber Prosper will serve as the keynote speaker.
- Dr. Novobilski shared with Cabinet members that the low residency Master of Fine Arts in Integrated Visual Arts program finished the accreditation process. This will be a terminal degree for Delta State.
- President LaForge announced Professor Jivko Draganov of the University of National and World Economy (UNWE) in Bulgaria will be the Fall 2022 Colloquia Distinguished Lecture Series speaker. The date will be late August or early September.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Student Affairs' "Takin' Care of Business Day," June 14, June 16, June 28
- Delta Council Annual Meeting and Luncheon, June 17, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., BPAC and Quadrangle
- Summer Session II begins, June 28
- Fourth of July Holiday, July 4

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, June 13, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:34 pm