

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: March 20, 2023

Members in attendance: Dr. E. E. Caston, Dr. Joshua Armstrong, Dr. Caroline Fletcher, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Ms. Lucia Chacon Habis, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Dr. Andy Novobilski, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Larry Wakefield (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Mr. Rick Munroe

Guests: Dr. Edwin Craft, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration
Dr. Christopher Jurgenson, President-Elect, Faculty Senate
Ms. Holly Ray, Chair-Elect, Administrative Staff Council
Dr. Josie Welsh, Associate Provost

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on March 20, 2023. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Caston presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Dr. Novobilski, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on March 6, 2023.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Caston gave an overview of the activities and events from the last couple of weeks. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met for their monthly meeting. Dr. Caston, Mr. Larry Wakefield, Mr. Munroe, and Dr. Edwin Craft met with Foundation President Tom Janoush, Past Foundation President Tim Harvey, and Foundation President-Elect Hugh Smith to discuss Foundation funds. The Art Department held an opening reception for the Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition. The Strategic Plan Steering Committee met for their monthly meeting.
- Ms. Chacon announced the student sign up for the Big Green event is available. Student Legislative Day is Wednesday at the Mississippi Capitol beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- Mr. Kinnison provided an update on Athletics. Spring training for the football team resumes this week, and it will continue for two weeks. Members of the swimming and diving teams participated in the NCAA National Championships. The baseball and softball teams hosted Union University over the weekend. The tennis teams competed against Valdosta State University yesterday, and both teams will compete against Shorter University this weekend. The golf team hosted a tournament over the weekend, and they finished fourth. They travel to Union University for a match next week. The Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held on Friday, March 31. All inductees will be recognized during the softball and baseball games the next day during Go Green Weekend.
- Mr. Wakefield shared an update on Facilities projects. A couple of residence halls were without hot water; however, the issue has been resolved. The drains on the Kent Wyatt Hall roof are being replaced. Once the drains are replaced, the ceiling on the second floor of Kent Wyatt Hall will be

repaired. The purchase of a new boiler for the H. L. Nowell Union was approved by the Bureau of Buildings.

- Dr. Caston shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. The IHL Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday. The BPAC will host comedian Jon Crist on Thursday evening. The Mississippi Humanities Council will host their annual Public Humanities Awards ceremony on Friday, and Delta State’s 2023 Humanities Teacher Award nominee, Dr. Justin Krueger, will be recognized.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

Spring 2023 Campus Forum Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts announced the Spring 2023 Campus Forum will be held on Thursday, April 27 at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Jobe Hall. The later date allows Delta State to obtain information from IHL staff on the amount of funding each university will receive from State appropriations for FY24. If Cabinet members have suggested topics of discussion, please send them to Dr. Roberts.

Organizational Chart for SACSCOC use..... Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts provided a revised copy of the organizational chart for SACSCOC use to Cabinet members. If Cabinet members have any changes, please email them to Ms. Cole by end of day today.

Institutional Effectiveness and PlanningDr. Novobilski

Dr. Novobilski invited Dr. Josie Welsh to Cabinet for a follow up on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee meeting from two weeks ago. Dr. Welsh led a discussion on the need for a systematic review of university policies. Cabinet members discussed the need for a policy calendar that would allow for all university policies to be reviewed every three years. The policy calendar would possibly be managed by Human Resources. Dr. Caston requested that a few members of the Cabinet (with the input of Dr. Welsh) volunteer to serve on a taskforce that would recommend to the full Cabinet a process for reviewing policies and creating a policy calendar. The taskforce will also provide a recommendation to Cabinet regarding the need for any university handbooks to be a part of the policy review.

Annual Review of Student Achievement GoalsDr. Novobilski

Dr. Novobilski invited Dr. Josie Welsh to Cabinet for the annual review of Student Achievement goals. The student achievement goals for the university are: increase 6-year graduation rate to 40% by 2021 (2015 cohort); increase the first-time, full-time freshmen first year retention rate to 70%; increase percentage of full-time undergraduate students earning a minimum of 24 hours in one academic year to 75%; exceed a three-year average of an 80% pass rate across all applicable fields of study; and, decrease by five the number of gateway and General Education courses with an enrollment of 10 or more with a D, F, W, I rate above 40%.

Dr. Welsh reviewed the above goals with Cabinet members and asked if these goals should be carried forward. If carried forward, the goals would need to be revised. Each goal has four areas to consider: the target, benchmark, threshold, and disaggregated data. The target is the percentage or number the goal is trying to reach. The benchmark shows an average of this goal for the university's peer institutions. The threshold is the number below the target where action must be taken. The disaggregated segment dictates how the data will be manipulated into different groups to provide additional data to the university for decision making purposes.

Dr. Welsh stated the university falls behind on using the data available in decision making. For example, the goal of increasing the six-year graduation rate to 40% by 2021 was met. Does the university know how this happened? What initiatives, programs, professors, etc. helped the university reach this goal?

Cabinet members want to keep Student Achievement goals of graduation rates and retention; however, there needs to be an increased emphasis on looking into what works and what does not work. Cabinet members requested Ms. Chrisa Mansell provide the maximum graduation rate percentage that Delta State could expect to reach, based on previous-years data. Cabinet members requested Dr. Welsh, with the help of Ms. Chrisa Mansell, provide to Cabinet members additional ideas of Student Achievement goals and the rationale behind them. Cabinet members will edit, as needed, prior to finalizing them.

Recruitment Update/Overview..... Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin provided a recruitment update to Cabinet members. Currently, 240 students have signed up for Takin' Care of Business Days. Office of Admissions' staff have sent 700 text messages to students encouraging them to sign up for Takin' Care of Business Days. Packets are being sent to faculty-advisors to review those students already signed up for Takin' Care of Business Days. The Director of Admissions candidate will be on campus next Tuesday.

Budget Update Mr. Wakefield

Mr. Wakefield provided an update on the university budget. The Executive Committee is meeting weekly to discuss their respective budgets and the university budget as a whole, and they are currently working on revenue assumptions for FY24. Mr. Wakefield hopes to get a better idea of State appropriations at the IHL CFO meeting this week.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Student Legislative Day, March 22, Mississippi Capitol
- John Crist Emotional Support, March 23, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Athletics' Hall of Fame Ceremony, March 31, 5:30 p.m., GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi
- Go Green Weekend, March 31 – April 2
- R.E.S.P.E.C.T., April 4, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, April 3, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.