

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: March 26, 2018

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. George Beals, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Dr. Dave Breaux, Mr. Patrick Hundley, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, and Ms. Christie Rocconi (Ms. Ann Giger— recorder)

Members not in attendance: Ms. Ashley Griffin

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on March 26, 2018. The meeting convened at 1:45 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Beals and seconded by Dr. Breaux, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on March 19, 2018.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Last week, President LaForge continued his internal relations efforts by visiting several departments, including the Division of Management, Marketing, and Business Administration; Division of Accountancy, Computer Information Systems, and Finance; and, the Division of Social Sciences and History.
- President LaForge thanked everyone for their assistance in hosting Mr. Fred Smith, Chairman and CEO of FedEx, for the Spring Colloquia Series. He said Mr. Smith impressed the crowd with his remarks, and stated that Mr. Smith plans to return to Delta State in the near future.
- Dr. McAdams filled in for President LaForge at the IHL Board meeting last week. Dr. McAdams stated the Beverage Contract with PepsiCo passed unanimously. President LaForge informed Cabinet Members that the new IHL Commissioner will be Dr. Alfred Rankins, the current president of Alcorn State University. President LaForge elaborated on Dr. Rankin's qualifications, and noted Dr. Rankins will be the first full-time African-American IHL Commissioner.
- Last week, President LaForge met with Dr. William Bell and Casey Family Programs' staff members. He stated the meeting was very productive and allowed Delta State and Casey Family Programs to discuss in detail their visions for shared initiatives.
- President and Mrs. LaForge attended the BPAC performance of Gladys Knight last week. He said he has received a lot of positive feedback on the wonderful performance she gave.
- President LaForge gave the welcome at two of Delta State's conferences last week — F. E. Woodall Conference and the Tech Savvy Conference. Dr. Beals informed Cabinet Members approximately 285 people registered for the Woodall Conference and 80% of the registrants had ties with Delta State.
- President LaForge attended the opening press conference for the Winning the Race Conference yesterday held at the Amzie Moore House, and he welcomed conference attendees this morning at the opening session. He stated the conference is off to a great start.

- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. Delta State hosted Shorter University this past weekend for baseball and softball. The baseball, softball, and tennis teams won their games over the weekend. Ticket sales for the baseball games were approximately \$700 and softball ticket sales were \$300. This weekend, Delta State will host Christian Brothers University for baseball and softball games.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on facilities management projects. The rain has hindered the paving portion of Statesmen Boulevard, but other areas have seen progress, including trenching for water and electric lines and new landscaping. Zeigel Hall is on target to be completed by mid-May. The Young-Mauldin Cafeteria project has a new contract manager, and the opening date will be August 19. The lighting project in Roberts-LaForge Library is 80% complete.
- President LaForge gave an overview for the week ahead. The Winning the Race Conference continues tonight with the President’s Reception in the BPAC, tomorrow with the Plenary Session at 8:15 a.m. in the BPAC Recital Hall, and the Closing Session at 12:15 p.m. in Jobe Hall Auditorium. On Wednesday, he will host a Faculty and Staff luncheon. The International Business Symposium begins Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in the Baioni Conference Center. On Wednesday evening, President LaForge meets with Dr. David Abney to give him an update on the campaign. President LaForge and his Executive Committee will host Dr. Abney and the speakers of the International Business Symposium for a breakfast on Thursday morning. President LaForge leaves on Friday to attend the NCAA Final Four men’s basketball tournament.
- President LaForge reminded Cabinet Members that Friday is a holiday for faculty, staff, and students.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Student Activities FeeDr. Bennett

Dr. Bennett stated the Student Activities Fee came about from a bill passed by the Student Senate. Students want to have large-scale entertainment, major speakers, and other events on campus. The proposed Student Activities Fee from the Student Senate bill is \$50 per year. The Vice President for Student Affairs would administer the budget received from the fees. Mr. Rutledge advised this fee would be in addition to a student’s tuition, but it is counted as tuition by IHL, along with our \$120 per year capital improvement fee. All full time students, including online students, would be assessed the \$25 per semester fee, and part-time students would be assessed a pro-rated fee to be paid with tuition each semester. The fee will not be assessed during summer sessions. Dr. McAdams asked if a full-ride scholarship covers the fees. If the answer is unclear, Dr. McAdams suggested revisiting whether scholarships might pay for it or not.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Bennett to approve a \$25.00 per semester activity fee applicable to all full time students and pro-rated for part-time students and seconded by Dr. Breaux. **The motion was tabled until after the tuition discussion.**

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to charge a \$25.00 activity fee in the fall and spring semesters applicable to full-time students and pro-rated for part-time students and seconded by Dr. McAdams. **The motion was approved.**

Tuition for 2018-19 Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge stated that since Delta State will not receive a significant increase in State Appropriations, we should consider a 5% tuition increase for the 2018-19 school year. President LaForge stated we need to try to remain in line with the other state universities and remain sensitive to our students’ ability to pay. Currently, Delta State’s tuition is \$6,859 per year, which includes the \$120 per year capital improvement fee. The new tuition amount would be \$7,076 plus the \$120 capital improvement and the \$50 student activity fee for a total of \$7,246 per year. Cabinet members also discussed the need to give pay raises, and an increase in tuition would be the only way to do this since the state did not provide the funds. Ms. Rocconi said it is hard to keep staff when people are working for the same salary they received four years ago. Dr. Beals stated that we have to do what is necessary to attract and retain good faculty with competitive salaries. If changes to the tuition increase amount are needed, the Executive Committee will consider them in the interim.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Beals to request a 5% increase in tuition for FY19 and seconded by Mr. Mayers. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Beverage Contract Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge announced the Board of Trustees approved at the March meeting the beverage contract with PepsiCo. Mr. Rutledge was asked prior to the Board meeting why PepsiCo was chosen, and he explained how the committee came to their conclusion based on the best options. The Nehi Bottling Company vending machines have been removed from campus, and all Pepsi vending machines have been installed. The card readers on the new vending machines are very popular and are working well with a few exceptions. Currently, Pepsi sales in three days equal three months’ worth of Nehi product sales. Facilities Management has begun the process of taking down all Nehi Bottling Company signs throughout campus. President LaForge thanked Mr. Rutledge for leading Delta State through this change, and Mr. Rutledge thanked President LaForge for his support.

Golf Course RFP Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet Members he met with members of the IHL staff to discuss the Golf Course RFP, and they provided him with a RFP template to use. Delta State must stress throughout the process that the project is for students, faculty, and staff.

Legislative Update Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts gave an update from Conference Week. The appropriations projection for FY19 is an increase of less than 1% and the worst-case scenario is staying where we are; however, the appropriations bill has not been filed. There is some discussion of IHL being able to keep the \$8 million, which was previously allocated for Ayers funding, for distribution to all of the universities. In regards to the bond bill, Delta State’s request was for approximately \$7 million, which included replacing the President’s house, repair and renovation projects, and ADA projects. Delta State will receive \$5 million, which includes \$2.5 million designated for coliseum repairs and restorations and \$2.5 million for repair and renovation and ADA projects. President LaForge learned that the language for the Coliseum project was added at the last minute by the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and without consulting Delta State. President LaForge shared with the Executive Director of DFA his unhappiness with the way these changes were made without anyone knowing about it. Dr. Roberts spoke with DFA’s Executive Director and the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and the two of them agreed they would remove the

Coliseum language when the legislature reconvenes in January. Another area in the bond bill that changed without anyone knowing about was the broad language for the repair and renovation projects. At the last minute, the language was tightened to include only critical projects. DFA has stated that they believe the funds should be used for maintenance only and not for constructing new facilities.

Additional information:

- Mr. Hundley announced the new edition of the alumni magazine has been mailed, and he is very proud of the publication.
- Dr. McAdams announced Ms. Darlene Breaux, Academic Affairs Development Officer, is taking a position at Delta Health Center in Mound Bayou. Dr. McAdams stated she has done a great job and will be missed.
- Dr. Roberts gave an update on the Vice President for University Advancement and External Affairs search. The search committee has invited two finalists to participate in on-campus interviews in April.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Winning the Race Conference, March 26-27
- International Business Symposium, March 28-29
- Presidential Forums, April 11 - Cabinet Members are asked to help moderate their areas.
- Cinderella, April 17, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, April 9 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.