

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: November 11, 2019

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Ms. Tricia Killebrew, 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. Elizabeth Swindle

Guests: Mr. James Forte, Director, Annual Fund
Ms. Phiandrea Pruitt, Student
Ms. Arlene Sanders, Chair, Diversity Committee
Mr. Stephen Turner, Student

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on November 11, 2019. The meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rutledge and seconded by Mr. Munroe, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on November 4, 2019.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge announced former Delta State employee, Ms. Missy Pearce passed away last week and her funeral was today. Also, Delta State student, Mr. Drew Rexrode passed away last week and his funeral services are today.
- Mr. James Forte, Director of the Annual Fund, provided Cabinet members with an overview of University Advancement's phone-a-thon. The university hasn't conducted a phone-a-thon in over 15 years. Mr. Forte's main goals for the phone-a-thon were to increase alumni giving, engage alumni, and allow Delta State students to network with alumni. At the beginning of the phone-a-thon, 19,000 alumni were on the call list; however, 10,000 numbers were incorrect or disconnected. The phone-a-thon callers had 9,000 conversations in six weeks and raised \$35,000 in gifts and pledges. Two student callers, Mr. Stephen Turner and Ms. Phiandrea Pruitt shared their experiences with speaking to alumni during the phone-a-thon.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from the past week. Northwest Mississippi Community College's Phi Theta Kappa invited President LaForge to be the keynote speaker at their induction ceremony. The Gulf South Conference Executive Committee held a conference call to discuss ineligible players. Dr. McAdams and other members of the academy met with Dr. Otha Belcher to discuss partnership opportunities. Dr. McAdams and Dr. Belcher are going to work with the planetarium, the Digital Media Arts Center, and the Student Success Center to schedule a tour of campus for Cleveland School District counselors, staff, and principals. President LaForge hosted

another Faculty and Staff Luncheon, and he welcomed guests to the Mississippi Association of School Business Administrators Leadership Conference held on campus. Mr. Munroe gave an overview of the National Alumni Association Board meeting. He stated the meeting had good attendance and a lively discussion culminating in the Board wanting to be more involved with the university. Dr. Bennett and Mr. Munroe gave an overview of Homecoming activities.

- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The HVAC system for Walter Sillers Coliseum wasn't ready last weekend for the basketball tournament, but it will be installed by the end of day. Damage occurred in several classrooms of Holcombe-Norwood Hall and Fielding Wright Art Center due to the contractor not properly sealing off the work area from the rain. The damage will be repaired by the contractor. Bailey Hall renovations will be complete by Thanksgiving to allow Student Success Center to move in during the Christmas Holidays. Materials for the roofing project on the Hugh Smith Facilities Management building were delivered and work should begin next week. Delta State and the contractor for the Ronald Mayers Aquatics Center HVAC project differ on several items, so a meeting has been called to discuss the plans going forward. Entergy cut off their grants until January, so Facilities Management is preparing a plan for new lighting projectors for the new year. The windows for the President's home are installed, and doors will go in this week to allow the contractor to work on the interior during the winter. The Golf Course Feasibility Student Engagement letter was signed by IHL and Dixon Hughes, LLP. Mr. Rutledge hopes to have the results of the feasibility study from Dixon Hughes, LLP by February.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. Athletics had a great Homecoming weekend. Over 70 women's basketball alumni and their families returned to campus for a reunion. The women's basketball team hosted the GSC/SSC Crossover, and they won both of their games. The men's basketball team went 1-2 at the GSC/SSC Crossover. Both teams compete away this weekend. The men and women's soccer teams played their last game of the season at Spring Hill College on Saturday. The men lost, but the women won advancing them to the Gulf South Conference Tournament Tuesday at Mississippi College. The football team beat University of West Georgia on Saturday and will compete against Mississippi College for their last regular season game this weekend. The swimming and diving teams had a clean sweep at Henderson State University on Friday. The Coaches Radio Show takes place tonight at No Way Jose.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. Statesmen Spotlight Day occurred today. Dr. Bennett shared approximately 1,350 students guests were on campus for the event, and she thrilled with the participation and attendance. The Bologna Performing Arts Center performance of Tedeschi Trucks Band is tonight. President LaForge will host his fifth Faculty and Staff luncheon on Tuesday, and the Colloquia Lecture Series featuring Governor Haley Barbour and Mr. Jere Nash begins at 6:00 p.m. in Jobe Hall Tuesday evening. President LaForge asked for Cabinet members' help in spreading the word. The Cleveland Music Foundation Board meets Thursday, and the College of Business and Aviation hosts a Scholarship Program on Thursday, as well. President LaForge will visit the Art Department on Friday, and he will travel to Clinton on Saturday to attend the Delta State vs. Mississippi College football game.

CABINET TOPIC

Diversity Committee Update..... President LaForge
President LaForge introduced Ms. Arlene Sanders, Chair of the Diversity Committee, and asked her to update Cabinet Members on the accomplishments of the Diversity Committee and their upcoming plans. Ms. Sanders explained the Diversity Committee continues to further their commitment of diversity and helping Delta State students to develop an interest in cultural events. The Diversity Committee has been busy and has collaborated with different groups across campus to ensure their diversity efforts are enhanced through the

committee's support. The Diversity Committee has collaborated with the World Class Experience, the Division of Social Sciences and History, Roberts-LaForge Library, and the Winning the Race Committee. This semester, the Diversity Committee presented programs celebrating Hispanic culture, LGBTQ History month, and bringing awareness and understanding to blackface in Mississippi. Programs afford students, faculty, staff, and the community opportunities to engage in discussions about diversity issues, and they promote the importance of understanding the impact of diversity in our schools and communities. The Diversity Committee was provided grant funds from the Kettering Foundation through the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to find ways to increase African American Involvement on campus, and they have finished two of four sessions on the topic. Currently, they are working on a Martin Luther King Day program featuring Mr. Jesse Holland.

BUSINESS

Action

2020-21 Academic Calendar.....Dr. McAdams

On the recommendation of Academic Council and the Academic Calendar Committee, Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet members the 2020-21 Academic Calendar. 750 minutes of instruction are required for each credit hour of university credit. Delta State's academic calendar adheres to this definition for credit hours, and each credit hour allows for required amount of instruction.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the 2020-21 Academic Calendar and seconded by Mr. Munroe. The motion was approved.

Search and Hiring Requests..... Cabinet Members

In response to the Cabinet's decision that all requests to search for and fill vacant positions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Cabinet, Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet positions for consideration. The positions presented do not impact the salary savings identified previously to address the budget shortfall for this fiscal year.

Academic Affairs Faculty Requests

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet members the request to search for an Assistant Professor of Biology and Science Education, an Assistant Professor of Sociology, and an Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership. All searches will be conducted in FY20, and the professors will be hired in FY21.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve searching and hiring of Assistant Professors in Biology, Sociology, and Educational Leadership and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. The motion was approved.

Academic Affairs Staff Requests

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet members the request to search for and hire an International Admissions Specialist and a Student Support Specialist. The International Admissions Specialist position will be funded through international student fees. The Student Support Specialist position is currently filled; however, the position will be vacated on November 18.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the searching and hiring of the International Admissions Specialist and the Student Support Specialist and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. The motion was approved.

Discussion

None

Additional information

- Dr. Bennett announced Dr. Richard Houston plans to retire at the end of December.
- Mr. Rutledge announced an Interim Comptroller will begin December 2.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Tedeschi Trucks Band, November 11, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Colloquia Lecture Series with Governor Haley Barbour and Mr. Jere Nash, November 12, 6:00 p.m., Jobe Hall
- Thanksgiving Holidays for Faculty and Students, November 25-29
- Thanksgiving Holidays for Staff, November 28-29
- Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, December 3, 3:00 p.m., Leroy E. Morganti Atrium
- Fall Exams, December 9-12
- Fall Commencement, December 13, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., BPAC
- Christmas Holidays, December 23 – January 1

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, November 18 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Graduate Studies Update (Dr. McAdams)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.