

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: November 15, 2021

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vicki Bingham, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Mr. Rick Munroe, Dr. Andy Novobilski, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, Dr. Andrew Wegmann, and Mr. William Young (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Ms. Nakikke Wallace

Guests: Ms. Caroline Fletcher, Digital Media Coordinator, Communications and Marketing

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on November 15, 2021. 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 November 8, 2021.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- On behalf of Cabinet members, President LaForge wished Dr. Lovin an early happy birthday.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. President LaForge participated in the weekly conference call with Commissioner Al Rankins and IEOs regarding COVID-19 related issues, and he also participated in the GSC Board of Directors meeting. The final class session for President LaForge's Leadership Class occurred, and the students did very well in their presentations. The Miss Delta State University Scholarship Competition took place on Tuesday evening, and Ms. Presley Jackson won the title. President LaForge filmed a segment of his Statesmen Insider with Ms. Holly Ray regarding the Administrative Staff Council's Feed A Family project. President LaForge continued his outreach efforts by visiting with the men's basketball team and the men's soccer team. He also hosted a reception for international students who will graduate in December. President LaForge attended the GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi Board of Directors' annual business meeting on Thursday. That afternoon, he and the Executive Committee hosted the campus forum for all faculty and staff. The City of Cleveland's "50 Nights of Lights" event began over the weekend. Delta State's newest Pan-Hellenic Council chapter, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, held their installation ceremony on Sunday.
- Mr. Kinnison provided an update on athletics. The football team finished their season over the weekend with a loss to University of West Georgia. The men's basketball team competed in the GSC/SSC Classic with a win over Eckerd College and a loss to Florida Southern College. They host LeMoyne-Owen College on Thursday and Lane College on Saturday. The women's basketball team competed in the GSC/SIAC Classic with a loss to Tuskegee University and a win against LeMoyne-Owen

College. They travel to Georgia for the North Georgia Classic this weekend. The diving team hosts the Delta Dive Invitational this weekend, beginning on Friday.

- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on facilities management projects. Mr. Rutledge has submitted the university's requests for funds from the American Recovery Act, and the Legislative Budget Office has received the requests. The funds can cover water system, sewage system, and storm drain repairs. The roof on the Odealier Morgan Laundry building is 90% complete. Once the project is complete, the roof on Scott Hall will be repaired and replaced. The residence halls' roofing project should be completed in March. The pre-bid meeting for the School of Nursing project was today, and bids will be released on December 2. Mr. Rutledge spoke with the university's attorney about the golf course MOU, and it should be sent to the development company this week.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. President LaForge participated in the virtual NCAA Special Convention this morning to discuss the NCAA Constitutional review. Bayou Academy will host a college fair this afternoon, and President LaForge will attend with Office of Admissions staff and other campus departments. The Institutional Executive Officers meet on Wednesday, and the IHL Board of Trustees meet on Thursday. The Office of Admissions plans to host a High School Preview Day on Wednesday. The BPAC performance of Ephrat Asherie Dance is scheduled for Thursday evening, and President LaForge gave his tickets to a local dance school. On Friday, President LaForge will meet with Miss Presley Jackson, who was recently crowned Miss Delta State University.

CABINET TOPIC

Campus Forums recap Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts led Cabinet members in a recap of the Campus Forums held last Thursday. The Executive Committee presented a lot of information, and the forum lasted a long time; however, the Executive Committee felt it important to be transparent about the enrollment and budget outlook. A few comments received were: remove the first few topics discussed (Campus Projects, New Initiatives, and COVID-19) to allow more time on bigger items; adjust the start time to allow Facilities Management to stay for the duration of the forum; and, confusion over mask protocols within the COVID-19 Protocols Guide. The Executive Committee wants to ensure the message was delivered and understood. Dr. Wegmann will share the questions he received from faculty to ensure the Executive Committee can address all issues and questions. Also, the Executive Committee will share the PowerPoint presentation with faculty and staff for review and better understanding.

BUSINESS

Action

Social Media policy (new – first reading)Mr. Munroe

Mr. Munroe presented to Cabinet for a first reading the new Social Media policy. This policy defines the rules and procedures for the use of University Social Media accounts. All Official University Social Media accounts must respect intellectual property rights; local, state, and federal laws; and, related University policies. All University Social Media Accounts must comply with the Delta State University Identity Standards Guide. University Social Media Account Administrators are responsible for ensuring that content does not infringe on the intellectual property rights of others, which are governed by federal copyright law, the terms of service of the social media provider, and/or University policies. All Delta State University employees must comply with University policies governing the use of technology when using social media as part of their official duties or when representing Delta State University in an official capacity on any

social media platform. University Social Media Accounts must have a minimum of two administrators to ensure that the account is consistently managed. All University Social Media Accounts must adhere to state and federal laws and regulations, as well as Delta State University policies. Only public information may be disseminated via University Social Media Accounts. Delta State University is committed to fostering an environment that allows for freedoms of speech and expression in accordance with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; however, Delta State University reserves the right to remove without notice any activity or posting on a University Social Media Site that is not protected under the First Amendment—such as any unlawful, defamatory, or obscene activity or posting.

Cabinet members discussed several items related to the new Social Media policy including: adding social media to the Identity Standards guide; adding a third administrator from the Office of Information Technology or Office of Communications and Marketing to Official University Social Media accounts; and, the need to speak with Mr. Jay Woods, attorney at IHL, to discuss student organizations and affiliated organizations needing to follow the Social Media policy.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Munroe to approve the first reading of the Social Media policy and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. The motion was approved.

Discussion

Administrative Staff Council Holiday Toy Drive Ms. Wallace

In the absence of Ms. Wallace, Dr. Lovin shared with Cabinet members information about the Administrative Staff Council’s Holiday Toy Drive. Unwrapped gifts are sought for children from infancy to 10 years old. The gifts will be donated to the Bolivar County Family and Children’s Services. Toys can be dropped off at the Office of Communications and Marketing or the Office of Housing and Residence Life.

Additional Information

- Dr. Bingham shared with Cabinet members information about the three events forthcoming for the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing: 1) a retirement reception for Ms. Debra Allen on Friday, December 3; 2) White Coat Ceremony on Thursday, December 9; and, 3) Pinning Ceremony on Thursday, December 9. All Cabinet members are invited to attend.
- Mr. Young announced SGA will host a petting zoo on the Quad on Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Dr. Novobilski provided an update on Dr. Gray Kane.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Ephrat Asherie Dance, November 18, 2021, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Rescheduled Chamber of Commerce Welcome Back Reception, November 22, 2021, 5:30 p.m., The Warehouse
- Thanksgiving Holidays, November 25 and 26
- Delta State’s “Giving Tuesday,” November 30
- Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, December 1, 3:00 p.m., Leroy E. Morganti Atrium, Kent Wyatt Hall
- Fall Commencement, December 10, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Walter Sillers Coliseum

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, November 29, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.

- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – SACSCOC Reaffirmation and QEP (Dr. Novobilski)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.