

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: October 18, 2021

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

Members not in attendance: Mr. Rick Munroe

Guests: Mr. James Forte, Director, Alumni Affairs and Annual Fund
Ms. Rochelle Owsley, Director, Student Development

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on October 18, 2021. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Mr. Rutledge, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on October 4, 2021.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge expressed his sympathy to the family of Ms. Rosetta Scott, former Custodian at the President's Home and in Kent Wyatt Hall, who passed away yesterday.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from last two weeks. The "Voices from the Sit-In" screening occurred with a pre-reception held at the President's home. President LaForge participated in a conference call with Commissioner Al Rankins and the Institutional Executive Officers to discuss COVID-19 related issues. President LaForge attended meetings of the Foundation Capital Campaign Steering Committee and the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. President LaForge filmed a segment of his Statesmen Insider with the men's basketball team, and he continued his departmental visits with a visit to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, men's and women's swimming and diving teams, and the Police Department. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce hosted their annual Octoberfest event. President LaForge thanked the Cabinet members who attended the Sponsor's Dinner on the Thursday prior. President LaForge represented Delta State at the inauguration of Jackson State University President Thomas Hudson. The BPAC had a performance by Martina McBride. The Extra Table Organization held its third annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser to benefit food pantries in the Mississippi Delta. GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi had a documentary screening on Carl Jackson.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The construction manager for the roofing project was terminated, and it will be one to two weeks before this position is filled. The absence will cause a delay in the project. The elevator project is on schedule; however, there remains an issue of receiving supplies and parts. The School of Nursing project goes out for bid this week, and

the bids will be received in November. The contract will be awarded in December or January. The university was notified about the American Rescue Plan Act that could provide the university with funds to update our grounds and infrastructure systems.

- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The football team lost during double overtime to North Greenville University. They travel to University of West Alabama this weekend. The men’s soccer team travels to Union University on Friday and hosts Christian Brothers University on Sunday. The women’s soccer team travels to Union University on Friday and Christian Brothers University on Sunday. The swimming and diving teams will compete against Missouri S&T and McKendree University over the weekend. The cross country team competes in the Gulf South Conference Championship match on Saturday at Mississippi College. The golf team competes in The Tulsa Cup on Monday and Tuesday of next week at Rogers State University. The basketball teams began practicing last week.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. He filmed a Statesmen Insider segment this morning with Mr. James Forte and Ms. Rochelle Owsley regarding Homecoming activities. The College of Business and Aviation Lecture Series featuring Major General Leon Collins will be held on Tuesday. The Office of Admissions will host a High School Preview Day on Wednesday. The Institutional Executive Officers will meet on Wednesday, prior to the IHL Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday. President LaForge continues his departmental visits this week with visits to the Division of Counselor Education and Psychology and Institutional Grants. He will participate in a Winning the Race fundraising meeting on Thursday. Okra OUT will host two events on Thursday, beginning with the Rainbow Run and followed by the Okra OUT Drag Show.

CABINET TOPIC

Homecoming PlansDr. Lovin and Mr. Munroe

Mr. James Forte and Ms. Rochelle Owsley shared with Cabinet members their respective department’s plans for Homecoming Week. The student’s theme for Homecoming is “Getting Spooky with the Statesmen,” and the activities begin on Monday with The Great Pumpkin #PartywiththePrez at the President’s home. On Tuesday, SGA has a candy bar in the Union for students, and the Delta State Gospel Choir performs that evening. SGA will sponsor a drive-in movie on Wednesday featuring *Halloween II*. Students can partake in pumpkin spice lattes provided by SGA on Thursday and the ever-popular Lip Sync Battle takes place that evening. The annual Boo Bash and Homecoming Pep Rally occur Friday evening. The final day of events is Saturday with the Homecoming parade, the football game, and the National Pan-Hellenic Council’s Stompfest. The alumni activities begin on Sunday, October 24 with social media trivia and the Statesmen vs. Okra Costume Challenge Virtual 5K. The social media trivia and virtual 5K continue through Saturday. The remainder of alumni activities begin on Friday starting with the Amanda and Joe Baker Laboratory Dedication at 2:30 p.m. Later that evening is the Golden Circle Social and Alumni Awards Gala. On Saturday, alumni have several events to participate in including: Golden Circle and Veterans Breakfast; Veterans Program; Aviation Reunion; Homecoming Parade; tailgating at Statesmen Park; and the football game. Mr. Forte announced the 2021 Alumni Awards recipients will be honored during Friday night’s gala event: Outstanding Alumnus of the Year is Dr. Ronald R. Chance; Alumni Hall of Fame inductees are Howard Brown, Ralph T. Cain, Sr., Dr. Wayne Rodolfich, and Drew Wayne Fioranelli; Kent Wyatt Young Alumnus Service Award recipient is Melissa S. Love; Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni Service Award recipient is Kelly D. Smith; and, Dr. Henry Outlaw Faculty/Staff Service Award recipient is Reverend James Breland. Mr. Rutledge announced the bookstore and retail locations will be open on Homecoming day.

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

Appendix 9c: Modifications to Existing Degree Program Proposal (Deletion of Undergraduate Coordinated Program in Dietetics) Dr. Novobilski

On the recommendation and approval of Academic Council, Dr. Novobilski shared with Cabinet members “Appendix 9c: Modifications to Existing Degree Program Proposal: Deletion of Undergraduate Coordinated Program in Dietetics.” The university requests approval to delete the program due to failure to consistently meet Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) benchmark (80%) for pass rate within one year of first attempt, despite proactive program changes; the program has a record of probationary accreditation since 2014; new education requirement effective January 2024 for coordinated program to include graduate degree, undergraduate didactic courses, and supervised practice to qualify for Registration Examination for Dietitians; and, decline in student enrollment and students meeting academic requirements for admission to Coordinated Program in Dietetics. The date for implementation for deletion is Fall 2023. The program currently has nine students in the Coordinated Program and five students in the Nutrition/Dietetics concentration. No faculty will be affected by the deletion.

Office Space for Title IX Coordinator Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin shared with Cabinet members his plan for converting his conference room into an office space for the Director of Engagement and Student Services/Title IX Coordinator. Also, he plans to convert rooms 306A and 306B on the third floor of the H. L. Nowell Union into a conference room.

Additional Information

- Dr. Roberts shared with Cabinet members the plans for The Great Pumpkin #PartywiththePrez event, which will be held on Monday, October 25 beginning at 4:00 p.m. This will be the first student event to be held at the new President’s home. The student-focused event will have several activities to engage students. She asked Cabinet members to encourage students to participate.
- Dr. Roberts shared with Cabinet members the plans for the annual Employee Luncheon, which will be held on Tuesday, October 26 at the President’s home.
- Dr. Roberts announced the Campus Forum for employee is scheduled for November 11 at 3:00 p.m. The draft talking points will be provided at the next Cabinet meeting. Dr. Roberts asked Dr. Lovin and Mr. Young to discuss the need for a student forum and to provide a recommendation.
- Mr. Young announced he would be presenting 79 faculty members with a Student Engagement Educator Award on Wednesday. These awards are based on how instructors use technology in their courses.
- Ms. Wallace announced that six DSU students applied for the FedEx Internal Audit internship, and two students have been invited to the second round of interviews. Also, Ms. Wallace is close to being able to provide a recommendation to President LaForge for the Congressional Fellow for Spring 2022.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Okra Out Rainbow Run, October 21, 5:30 p.m., Quadrangle
- Okra Out Drag Show, October 21, 7:00 p.m., Jobe Hall – Auditorium
- Homecoming Week, October 25-30
- Student event - The Great Pumpkin Party with the President, October 25, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., President’s Home

- Employee Luncheon, October 26, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., President’s Home
- Campus Forum, November 11, 2021, 3:00 p.m., Union 302A

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Enrollment and Budget Outlook (President LaForge)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.