

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: October 8, 2018

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Dr. Severine Groh, Mr. Charlie King, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Mr. Rick Munroe, Dr. Christy Riddle, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (recorder – Dr. Roberts)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Billy Moore

Guests: Ms. Emily Dabney, Registrar and Director, Institutional Research and Planning
Ms. Kara Goldman, Research Analyst, Institutional Research and Planning
Ms. Chrisa Mansell, Assistant Director, Institutional Research and Planning
Dr. Beverly Moon, Dean, Graduate and Cont. Studies, and SACSCOC liaison

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on October 8, 2018. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rutledge and seconded by Dr. McAdams, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on October 1, 2018.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of last week's activities and events. The Blues Conference took place from Sunday afternoon to Tuesday evening, concluding with Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue performing at the BPAC at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday. On Thursday, President LaForge participated in a GSC Executive Committee Conference call. That evening, the Art Department hosted their annual Faculty Art Exhibit Opening Reception at 5:00 p.m. Also that evening, the Bolivar Medical Center Foundation hosted a reception at the Delta Meat Market to celebrate their successes. Also last week, President LaForge had department visits with Library Services and with the Counseling Center.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. The Derrall Foreman Golf Tournament is taking place today and tomorrow. Mr. Mayers and Mr. Rutledge are working on a ribbon cutting ceremony for Statesmen Boulevard as part of the Homecoming activities. Women's soccer team won against Union University on Friday and against Christian Brothers University on Sunday. Men's soccer team tied with Union University on Friday and lost to Christian Brothers University on Sunday. On Saturday, the football team lost to Valdosta. Mr. Mayers announced that on October 4 they certified every athlete for the entire year. He thanked Dr. McAdams and his staff for their assistance.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on facilities projects. Young-Mauldin cafeteria is on track to be finished by October 17. They plan to start serving food in the new facility by November 1. The new facility will provide several new items, including two outdoor courtyards, a 150-seat theater, and a private dining room that can seat 100 people. President LaForge asked Mr. Rutledge to schedule a time for the

Cabinet to tour the facility before it opens. Zeigel Hall has been completed, and they are working to replace the landscaping plants that died. Facilities Management is gearing up to start work on the bond projects. The funds should come available at the end of November. The projects include the Walter-Sillers roof, HVAC, and sound system, as well as roofing and HVAC projects in various other buildings on campus.

- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. The Bolivar County Historical Society will host a welcome reception for the International Student Association tonight from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Railroad Museum. Dr. Mark Emmert will be on campus on Tuesday for the Colloquia Lecture Series. He will spend the day touring the campus and meeting with student leaders, student-athletes, and coaches. There will be a VIP reception for him at 5:00 p.m. in the President's Conference Room and the lecture will take place at 6:00 p.m. in Jobe Auditorium, followed by a general reception in the lobby. President LaForge will have a campaign stewardship call with Mr. Bill West, Vice President at FedEx, on Wednesday. On Thursday morning, President LaForge will travel to Jackson to attend Dr. Will Bynum's inauguration at Jackson State University. That afternoon, President LaForge will meet with Dr. David Abney to provide him with an update on the capital campaign. The International Business Symposium will take place on Thursday evening and Friday morning. President LaForge will host a breakfast for the speakers on Friday morning. The baseball team will scrimmage against Ole Miss on Saturday. On Sunday, there will be a welcome reception for Dr. Ajay C. Joshi, Indian Fulbright-In-Residence, at the Center for Teaching and Learning.

CABINET TOPIC

Visioning Goals #1-3 for FY19.....Dr. McAdams/Dr. Bennett/Mr. Rutledge

Dr. McAdams, Dr. Bennett, and Mr. Rutledge presented to Cabinet Members their respective goals for FY19 in support of Visioning Goals one through three. (see reports)

BUSINESS

Action

Hiring Requests.....Dr. Bennett/Dr. McAdams

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. Bennett and Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet positions for consideration. The positions presented do not impact the salary savings identified previously to address the budget shortfall.

Student Affairs Requests

Dr. Bennett requests to search for and hire a Police Officer.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Bennett to approve the searching and hiring of a Police Officer for FY19 and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. **The motion was approved.**

Academic Affairs Requests

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet Members the request to search and hire the position of Computer Services/Transcript Clerk in the Registrar's Office. Also, he reported that the Child Development Center has hired a substitute teacher, as previously approved.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the searching and hiring of a Computer Services/Transcript Clerk in the Registrar's Office for FY19 and seconded by Dr. Groh. **The motion was approved.**

Strategic Plan Extension ProposalDr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams introduced and welcomed Ms. Dabney, Ms. Goldman, Ms. Mansell, and Dr. Moon to discuss the extension proposal for Delta State’s Strategic Plan. Our current Strategic Plan is dated 2015-19. For purposes of institutional effectiveness, and with the Fifth Year Interim Report due to SACSCOC in early 2020, we need to be prepared for a seamless transition to an updated strategic plan in place. There are five overarching goals in our Strategic Plan, and these goals continue to serve the strategic needs of the institution, aligning well with our recently developed Visioning Principles. Every year in Compliance Assist, we “relate” unit goals with the university strategic plan indicators in order to track progress towards goals. During this last year of the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan, we will review and edit all current indicators to ensure every necessary indicator is carefully aligned with our visioning principles moving forward into the next five year Strategic Plan (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2024). Indicators found to be no longer relevant will be removed so as to make the annual Strategic Plan reporting cleaner and to frame, specifically, the next five years of strategic planning. The measurements and/or tracking of indicators, principles, and goals will be available to Cabinet Members and all units for “ongoing, comprehensive, integrated, research-based, systematic, strategic review and planning” (SACSCOC).

The Strategic Plan Goals are: 1) Increase Student Learning; 2) Develop an engaged, diverse, high-quality student population; 3) Assure high-quality, diverse, engaged faculty and staff; 4) Enhance institutional effectiveness; and, 5) Improve the quality of life for all constituents. Dr. Moon asked Cabinet Members to make sure all of their areas have submitted annual reports for the previous year. President LaForge asked Dr. Moon to send to Cabinet Members the list of units in their areas that have not submitted their annual reports.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams approve the renewal of the five major goals listed in our current Strategic Plan for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024 and seconded by Mr. Mayers. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Mumps casesDr. Bennett

Dr. Bennett referenced the notice she sent to the campus last week about the two mumps cases brought to our attention by the State Epidemiologist. All questions should be directed to Dr. Bennett or to the Student Health Center.

Scholarship Caps and Protocols.....Dr. Bennett

In consultation with Dr. Debbie Heslep and Mr. Merritt Dain, Dr. Bennett put together a plan for changing the scholarship caps and protocols in an effort to manage better our scholarship budget. Changes will include: discontinuing the Statesman award; raising the ACT score to 23 (from 22) for the Opportunity Award and placing a cap of 50 on the award (46 awards given last year); eliminate the Recognition Award (12 students received this award last year); raise the minimum GPA of the freshman award to 3.25; capping the Achievement Award at 25 (32 awards given last year); capping the Excellence Award at 15 (19 awards given last year); capping the Academic Transfer award at 25 (42 awards given last year); and, capping the Phi Theta Kappa award at 100 (136 awards given last year). Awards will be given based on application date. Current students receiving the awards will not be impacted. The estimated savings for each award are: Phi Theta Kappa - \$92,000, Achievement – \$92,998, Recognition - \$24,000, Opportunity - \$60,684, and Statesman - \$128,651, for a total estimated savings of \$400,000. Dr. Riddle asked how international students will be handled since they don’t have final transcripts until the end of June or July. Dr. Bennett will find out if the application has to be complete in order for prospective students to be considered. Also, Cabinet Members suggested having a waiting list since some students who are awarded a scholarship may not enroll.

Additional information

- President LaForge offered a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Dave Granville, Bayou Academy Headmaster, who passed away last week.
- Mr. Rutledge reported that Delta State's current telephone system is very old and needs to be replaced in the very near future. As a result of IHL's new contract with CSpire, we have the opportunity to upgrade our telephone system. The new system will include free long distance in the U.S., the ability to record telephone calls, the ability to send voice mail messages to your email, and the new system will provide savings of \$2,000 per year. The plan is to install the new system after the new year. Dr. Groh asked if it is necessary to have a phone line in every office since many faculty members use their cell phones to communicate with students and others. Mr. Rutledge will work with OIT to develop policies and procedures regarding which offices must have a phone. Dr. Roberts recommended including information about the need for a person to answer the main line in offices instead of using voice mail for all calls.
- Mr. Rutledge reported that he is continuing his meetings regarding the building of the new president's home as well as the development of the golf course.
- Mr. Rutledge stated that Facilities Management needs to remove the row of crepe myrtles next to the marquee because they are blocking the new sign.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Colloquia Series Lecture with Dr. Mark Emmert, President of NCAA, October 9, 6:00 p.m., Jobe Hall
- International Business Symposium, October 11-12
- Oktoberfest, October 12-13, 2018, Downtown Cleveland
- Delta State football vs. Shorter University, October 25, 6:00 p.m. (wear pink), Parker Field. President's Reception at 5:30 p.m., Dorgan Center
- John Prine performance, October 25, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, October 15 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Visioning Goals #4-6 for FY19 (Dr. Bennett, Dr. McAdams, Mr. Munroe, Mr. Rutledge)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.