

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: January 8, 2016

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Libby Carlson, Dr. E.E. Caston, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Mr. Steve McClellan, Ms. Marilyn Read, and Dr. Michelle Roberts
(Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart and Mr. Mikel Sykes

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on January 8, 2016. The meeting convened at 2:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge welcomed Cabinet Members back after the holiday break.
- President LaForge announced that Delta State and the City of Cleveland received the Levitt Amp Grant again. A list of the 2016 concerts will be released at a later time.
- President LaForge participated in a video interview with Ed Foose, with the Mississippi Roads Program, regarding Delta State's role in the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi coming to Cleveland and our opportunities to partner with them in the coming years.
- President LaForge visited the campus of Auburn University at Montgomery for a GSC Expansion visit. They are interested in joining the GSC.
- President LaForge asked Mr. Mayers to give an update on Athletics. Mr. Mayers stated that the men's and women's basketball teams are having great seasons. The women's team has two very important games coming up and are top four in their conference. DSU acquired thirty new athletes for the spring with most being for football and baseball. Also, he stated the work on the Coliseum began this week. During the time of the repair work, parts of the coliseum will be closed.
- President LaForge asked Dr. McAdams to give an update on our Deans. He announced that Dr. Lizabeth Carlson will retire on June 30. The search for a new Dean for the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing will begin soon. Dr. Moore is back after recovering from surgery. He is doing well and working on the College of Business' accreditation.
- President LaForge discussed this week's schedule. The residence halls will open on Sunday, and classes will begin on Monday. President LaForge and his daughter, Caroline, will attend the College Football Championship game on Monday. President LaForge reminded everyone that the next Cabinet meeting will take place on Wednesday at our regular time. On Wednesday evening, President LaForge will travel to San Antonio for the NCAA Convention. The Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi Gala is on Saturday, and they will honor Lucy Janoush.
- President LaForge asked Mr. Fulcher to give an update on mid-year fundraising activities. Mr. Fulcher announced that the Foundation has received \$257,000, as of yesterday, toward its Annual Fund goal of \$500,000 (by June 30). He said this is the largest amount they have ever received at this point in the year.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Mayers, seconded by Dr. Caston, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on December 14, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

Capitalizing on GRAMMY Museum MS – Plans from Cabinet Advance Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts shared with Cabinet Members the notes from the Cabinet Advance regarding Capitalizing/Prepping the Campus for GRAMMY Museum Mississippi. She pointed out that the Grand Opening is only seven weeks away. Our campus building signs are being updated with fresh paint, university logo, and building name. The locator signs in front of the Alumni House and the entrance to the Quadrangle are being repurposed. The university does not have a “true” entrance into the campus, and so two new entrance signs are being considered for Highway 8. Our signature brick and lanterns will be used for these. Brightly colored signs/banners will be added to the fence along Highway 8 to showcase various aspects of campus, and banners will be added to the light poles down Fifth Avenue and the Quadrangle to increase campus identity. Dr. Roberts is going to work with Ms. Tina Gladden at the DSU Bookstore to have display cases of DSU merchandise at the Chamber of Commerce and the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi and to make sure we have an adequate supply of merchandise. Dr. Roberts is working with Mr. Greg Korb to create directional signs to encourage tourists to turn right toward the campus, when leaving the Museum, to visit our campus attractions such as the Blues Masks, the Boo Ferriss Museum, and the BPAC. Dr. McAdams has been working with Ms. Jennifer Farish to create a list of events taking place on DSU campus the week of the opening. Groups involved in the list are DMI, the Delta Center, Archives, BPAC, and Athletics. Dr. McAdams is working with Dr. Julie Speakes to plan a flyover at the Grand Opening to showcase our Commercial Aviation Department. Mr. McClellan stated that day passes will be offered to tourists visiting the Museum through Student Business Services for our Golf Course, Fitness Center, and Aquatics Center. The idea of an Okra Card for the pass was discussed, but the cost to produce the cards is too high. A receipt from Student Business Services will be used instead. Mr. McClellan stated that “campus clean-up” was done as far as the budget allowed. Buildings were pressure washed, painting was touched up, lights were replaced, and swings were repaired around campus. Dr. Roberts asked Cabinet Members to talk with their direct reports about the need for viewing their areas/buildings from a visitor’s viewpoint, and to try and clean/fix up their areas before the Grand Opening week. Dr. McAdams will speak with Dr. Debbie Heslep about providing campus tours. Dr. Roberts stated that the Communications and Marketing office is working to create DSU collaterals to place at the Museum. During the Cabinet Advance, the ideas of a visitor center in Kent Wyatt Hall and a phone app for visitors were discussed. More time is needed to create the app, and we will likely postpone creating a visitor center in KWH until we have a better idea of whether there is enough traffic to warrant one. Cabinet members suggested replacing light bulbs around campus, encouraging students to stay on campus for the Grand Opening, and keeping the residence halls open for those who want to stay. Also, a suggestion was made to ask Ms. Jeanna Wilkes and Mr. Davlon Miller to work with students and for Mr. Barkley Falkner and Ms. Dana George to work with athletes to spearhead a “Spirit Week” for students and student-athletes to assist in greeting visitors, encouraging everyone to wear green, etc. Also, President LaForge suggested incorporating the architectural tour, which Mrs. LaForge put together for inauguration week, into the plans.

BUSINESS

Action

Awarding of Privately Funded Scholarships revised policy (Final Reading)Dr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet for a final reading a revised edition of the policy for Awarding Privately Funded Scholarships. After the first reading, no recommendations or additions were brought forth by Cabinet Members.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the revised “Awarding of Privately Funded Scholarships” policy for a final reading and seconded Mr. McClellan. **The motion was approved.**

Union Furnishings and carpetDr. Caston

Dr. Caston plans to create a committee to assume the responsibility of updating the Union furnishings and installing new carpet. The second and third floors will receive the updates. The money for this project will come from the new \$50 facility fee charged to students through their tuition.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Caston to approve the use of part (approximately \$150,000) of our FY17 facility fee revenue to update the carpets and furnishings in the Union and seconded by Mr. McClellan. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

VP Finance transition and search..... President LaForge

President LaForge began the discussion by thanking Mr. McClellan for his guidance in reaching a better financial standing. Mr. McClellan has accepted a position at the University of Arkansas – Little Rock to be their Vice Chancellor for Finance, and he will begin this new role on March 1. Mr. McClellan has offered to be available to help with budgeting issues during our budget cycle process. Many of our budgeting decisions will be moved up in order to have Mr. McClellan’s input before his departure. President LaForge asked Mr. McClellan to discuss at the next Cabinet meeting the budget process and the parts that we can get done prior to his departure. President LaForge announced Dr. McAdams will Chair the search committee for our new Vice President for Finance and Administration, and an interim Vice President is a possibility. Mr. McClellan thanked Cabinet Members for their support in his decision, and stated he has loved being back home, working for DSU, and that he will miss his colleagues.

Other Discussion

- President LaForge announced that DSU and the other IHL institutions are slated to receive more bond money in the coming years than we received in the last bond cycle. The bond money that DSU receives will be used to repair roofs; for renovations for Walter Sillers Coliseum, Zeigel Hall, Cleveland Hall, Ward Hall, Broom Hall, and the dining hall; and to build a new President’s home.
- Mr. McClellan gave an update on Statesmen Boulevard. The process has been held up due to waiting on easements from MDOT and Entergy. The bidding process will not begin for another eight months, and the project will not be completed for about two years.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Martin Luther King holiday, January 18
- Annie, February 2, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Mama Mia, February 18, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, Grand Opening, March 5
- Beatles 2016: From Cavern to the Candlestick Symposium, April 1-2, GRAMMY Museum Mississippi
- IHL Board meeting at DSU, April 21, 2016

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:03 pm.