

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: August 22, 2016

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Dr. Chris Jurgenson, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Ms. Allie Rose Parker, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Ms. Christie Rocconi, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on August 22, 2016. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Jurgenson, seconded by Dr. Bennett, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on August 15, 2016.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Last week, President LaForge, Mr. Fulcher, Ms. Robin Boyles, Dr. Temika Simmons, Dr. Garry Jennings, and Dr. Griffin participated in a conference call with Ms. Antoinette Malveaux of Casey Family Programs to discuss the Winning the Race Conference and other partnership opportunities. The Casey Family Programs organization is very interested in finding ways to partner with the College of Education and Human Sciences to help the West Bolivar School District. Mr. Fulcher announced the next meeting with Casey Family Programs will be Thursday in the Simmons Room. Mr. Fulcher predicts the outcome of this meeting will show the alignment of their mission with Delta State's mission and that we will identify additional ways to partner with them.
- President LaForge attended the Institutional Executive Officers meeting and the Institutions of Higher Learning Board meeting last week. Several major topics were discussed during the IEO meeting. A change to the PERS system—allowing a one-time transfer from the private system to the public system—is favored by all university presidents and is in motion. IHL is moving towards a faster, more capable IT system for all universities with MISSION IT. The Chief Information Officer at the University of Mississippi is chairing this committee, and they are looking into several packages that would bring the regional universities up to par with the research universities. Each university is realizing the impact the change in labor laws will have on the institution. Overtime pay will be an unavoidable cost. The topic of weapons on campus will most assuredly be back on the legislative agenda this spring. Some legislators are very interested in this topic and are upset with how colleges are interpreting legislation. IHL is working to purchase additional insurance to protect network systems from potential hackers. Dual credit is a popular program throughout the state; however, there is not a standard for these programs. The quality and rigor is different throughout, the state and IHL has noticed issues with credentialing. President LaForge stated SACS will begin an audit of this program as a whole.

- President LaForge asked Mr. Fulcher to give an update on the Campaign Feasibility Study presentations. Mr. Fulcher stated a firm will be chosen this week to advise us during the campaign.
- Last week, the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce hosted a Welcome Back Reception for faculty and staff. President LaForge stated the event was greatly attended, and he asked Cabinet Members to express their thanks to Chamber members.
- President LaForge stated that Convocation was a great event, and that the Union looked wonderful, following the renovation of flooring and painting. President LaForge thanked Ms. Cole for her hard work with the new employee PowerPoint presentation and with the Convocation luncheon. President LaForge stated he had several employees request a copy of his State of the University address presentation. He thanked Dr. Roberts for her hard work and time she put in to make the PowerPoint presentation for his address.
- President LaForge asked Dr. Bennett to give an update on Student Move-In Day. Dr. Bennett said she has heard nothing but positive feedback from the event. She was very impressed with the turnout of volunteers, especially the help received from community members.
- President LaForge and Dr. Roberts spoke with Mr. Ron Nurnberg, from the TFA Delta Region office, this morning regarding the continuation of the Summer Institute on Delta State’s campus. Mr. Nurnberg said he has had conversations with the participating rural regions to see if they want to continue meeting at Delta State, and all regions are in favor of continuing their training at Delta State due to the experience they receive in a rural area. Mr. Nurnberg is having conversations with three other regions to see if they would like to join the Summer Institute at Delta State. Dr. Roberts stated the numbers of participants in the Summer Institute would stay in the 300-400 person range. TFA Delta is looking to partner with the Walton Foundation for additional funds and opportunities. President LaForge stated TFA has seen a decline in their numbers in the last four years due to a demographic and cultural change. Also, more students are starting their careers immediately after graduation.
- Mr. Mayers announced the architect and engineer for the Walter Sillers Coliseum renovation project will meet with Delta State personnel on Thursday to discuss the conceptual designs he presented to Cabinet last week.

CABINET TOPIC

- **None**

BUSINESS

Action

Revised Policy: Faculty Rights and Responsibilities (first reading)Dr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet the revised “Faculty Rights and Responsibilities” policy, as approved by Academic Council. He stated the only change made to the policy was the addition of one expectation of faculty members: “taking attendance each class meeting and regularly entering attendance records and grades in Canvas or Banner XE are job requirements.” The addition was made for three reasons:

1. The need for faculty to use Canvas or Banner XE because of its sustainability purposes. The university has an obligation to students for continuity of instruction, no matter the calamity.
2. With updated grades and attendance, advisors will be able to use CRM Advise to monitor their advisees to see if anyone needs additional support.
3. By using these forums, information given to students is readily available as evidentiary data.

Dr. McAdams stated the policy does not specifically define what “regularly entering” entails due to the fact he wants it to be made clear through operations. Preferably, he would like faculty to enter the information weekly. The Department Chair is responsible for monitoring faculty participation in this program and to hold them accountable. Training for Canvas and Banner XE will take place in the fall for full exposure in spring 2017.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the revised “Faculty Rights and Responsibilities” policy for first reading and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

None

Other Discussion

- Mr. Rutledge announced his office has free meal tickets from Aramark for employees and students to use. After dining in the Cafeteria, each person must fill out a survey on their experience, which will give Mr. Rutledge a better understanding of the issues facing our Cafeteria. Cabinet Members can get the tickets from Mr. Rutledge’s office.
- *Mississippi Today* will host two events next week. The “Rhythm and Blues” event will take place on Tuesday evening from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, and the moderated event with Mr. Jim Barksdale, Mr. Andrew Lack, and Mr. Walter Issacson is scheduled for Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. in Jobe Auditorium. President LaForge asked Cabinet Members to help build a crowd for both events.
- President LaForge invited Cabinet Members to attend his football reception on September 1, beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Dorgan Center. He stated Cabinet Members are invited to the reception prior to each home football game. A different list of special guests, as well as a group of regulars, will be invited to each reception.
- President LaForge announced a Cabinet meeting will not be held on Monday, September 5, due to the Labor Day Holiday.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Fall Semester begins, August 22
- Mississippi Today Lecture, August 31, 9:00 am, Jobe Auditorium
- DSU vs. Kentucky Wesleyan, September 1, 6:00 pm (Wear Green), Reception – 5:30 pm
- President’s Ice Cream Social, September 7, 5:00 pm, Quadrangle
- DSU vs. Texas A&M – Commerce, September 10, 6:00 pm (Wear White) Reception – 5:30 pm
- Colloquia Lecture Series, Judge Gustavo Gelpi, September 20, 6:00 pm, Jobe Auditorium
- Colloquia Lecture Series, Congressman Bennie Thompson, November 9, 6:00 pm, Jobe Auditorium

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, August 29 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Diversity Committee Annual Report (Ms. Arlene Sanders)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.