

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: January 25, 2016

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Libby Carlson, Dr. E.E. Caston, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Mr. Steve McClellan, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Mikel Sykes (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 January 25, 2016. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge provided an update on Mr. McClellan's recovery. He is doing well and will meet with his surgeon again today. He hopes to be back in office in a few weeks. During his absence, Dr. Roberts will serve as a liaison between the President's Office and the Finance and Administration department. President LaForge asked all Cabinet Members to include Dr. Roberts on any emails to Mr. Jamie Rutledge regarding financial matters until Mr. McClellan's return.
- President LaForge stated the NCAA Convention in San Antonio was well represented by the DSU community. Mr. Mayers and Ms. Dana George attended the conference, as well. President LaForge began his term on the NCAA Presidents Council immediately following the convention.
- President and Mrs. LaForge attended the Community Foundation of Northwest MS Gala, and it was a wonderful event.
- President LaForge participated in several Martin Luther King Day celebrations. He began the day at a breakfast hosted by Lampton Street Church of Christ in Mound Bayou followed by a program sponsored by 100 Black Men of Bolivar County, and lunch at The Senator's Place.
- President LaForge visited Southaven High School and Desoto Central High School for recruiting purposes. During his visit to Southaven High School, President LaForge was joined by Superintendent Cory Uselton, a DSU graduate. Later, President LaForge visited Clarksdale for donor visits. He met with Mr. Jimmy Wilson (Foundation Board Member), Judge William Willard (Chairman, First National Bank) and Mr. Rusty Bennett (President, First National Bank.)
- President LaForge asked Mr. Mayers to give an update on Athletics. Mr. Mayers stated that the basketball games over the last week were well attended. The men's team lost both games and the women's team won both of their games. Softball games begin this weekend in Georgia, and baseball games will begin in two weeks.
- President LaForge asked Dr. McAdams to give an update on enrollment and the NEH Grant. Dr. McAdams stated that all Cabinet Members should be getting enrollment updates from Dr. Emily Dabney in Institutional Research. He stated the figures for this week compared to last year at this time will look different due to the new purge process. He will begin looking at the figures next week to see where we stand. Dr. McAdams stated this will be the seventh time DSU has received the NEH Grant to conduct the "Most Southern Place on Earth" workshops. This program consists of two one-week

seminars for thirty public school teachers and is coordinated by the Delta Center for Culture and Learning.

- President LaForge gave an update from his IEO and IHL Board meetings. During the IEO meeting, Commissioner Boyce informed University Presidents that the Chief Information Officers for the IHL system are working to improve the system’s bandwidth. Commissioner Boyce shared his concern about hoverboards and drones on campus and the possible need to create policies to ban them from all university buildings and grounds. Mississippi University for Women has a policy in place for hoverboards and Kansas University has a policy in place for drones, if any university needs ideas on how to begin. The staff at IHL is creating a document with the talking points received from universities on ways to convince our legislators that tuition increases are necessary. Once they have completed the document, they will send it to each university. During the IHL meeting, the system bond strategy was discussed at length. It is believed that the next four-year cycle will be heightened allowing for a possible \$28 million for DSU for our facility projects. There likely will not be capital improvement funds for FY17. A possible third year of not using the funding formula for universities is approaching. Commissioner Boyce plans to speak to the IHL Board regarding the issue of the Mississippi Flag. Mr. Sykes stated the student body presidents are planning to pen a letter to the legislature for change. Dr. Roberts stated there is talk of creating a bicentennial flag with the possibility of making it the new state flag. Governor Bryant heard at a conference the idea of allowing four year universities the ability to grant associates degrees. Commissioner Boyce plans on speaking to the Governor about this option.
- President LaForge discussed next week’s schedule. He will welcome students on Tuesday to “Student for a Day”; the Major Foundations Task Force will meet on Tuesday and will also discuss Hearin Proposals; he will recruit at Hernando High School and Horn Lake High School on Wednesday; meet with Foundation Board President Tim Harvey on Wednesday; and, will travel to New York on Thursday for a fraternity Trustee meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Caston, seconded by Mr. Mayers, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on January 13, 2016.

CABINET TOPIC

Visioning Process.....Dr. Caston

Dr. Caston brought to Cabinet the first portion of his visioning process. This portion covers Housing and Residence Life, Student Financial Assistance, and the Police Department. Dr. Caston stated that Housing and Residence Life staff want to increase staff accountability with academics and job responsibility. All staff members will have to maintain certain GPA requirements to keep their position. With regards to job responsibility, a merit based means of daily accountability will take place. Another area of concern for Housing and Residence Life is our International students during the holidays. Housing and Residence Life would like to create a program for university and community participants to host an international student during the holidays throughout the academic year. This would cover lodging, meals, etc. By allowing the community to get involved, it would increase the circle of involvement with our international students. Housing and Residence Life would like to partner with the Student Success Center and the Chamber of Commerce to advertise this program to the City of Cleveland. Another option would be to create and offer international students an on-campus housing option that would include housing accommodations for an academic year. A fee structure would be created to cover holiday and interim times for food services and housing. If this proved to be successful, it could be offered to all students. They plan to complete the installation of access control

through residence halls and complete the installation of security cameras throughout all residence halls. The Financial Assistance office would like for the scholarship program to be outlined in a way that showed which scholarships are available, how much money is allotted for each scholarship, the requirements of each scholarship, who is in charge of each scholarship, a listing of scholarships that Admissions, Financial Assistance, and Alumni are allowed to use, and which office is in charge of awarding certain scholarships. Financial aid would like for all forms to be able to be filled out online to cut down on paperwork, for students to be awarded sooner, and the ability to upload state scholarships into Banner without having to load them individually. Also, they would like to use the DSU website to remind students to fill out their FASFA in a timely manner. The Police Department's vision is to provide enhanced services to the DSU campus and local communities. They will seek to do so through internal developments and service implementations in the areas of operations, professional development, facility improvement, community outreach/educational programming, and emergency management and response. In order to complete their vision, the Police Department would like to hire additional police officers, increase entry level salaries, purchase new software programs to increase productivity, seek department accreditation, improve their current facility or move to a new location, provide more safety training campus wide, keep building managers in compliance with the Campus Emergency Management Plan, and purchase a generator that is capable of sustaining the operations of the university Police Department during times of power outages. *(See attachment.)*

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

State Budget Cuts..... Dr. Roberts

President LaForge queried Cabinet Members as to the best way to handle the delivery of the news of the State's budget cuts. Last year, major budget cuts were done across campus. We don't look to do that again. This is a major setback for DSU. Dr. Roberts asked Mr. Jamie Rutledge to explain the numbers to Cabinet Members. Mr. Rutledge stated the state of Mississippi has a \$75 million deficit. Spread out across state departments, the IHL system will take a 1.7% cut. DSU will take a 1.9% cut. DSU will have to cut \$400,223 out of the current budget. Our current spending patterns show that the campus is spending wisely; therefore, we should not have to cut budgets at this time. The \$400,000 budget cut will prevent us from making much-needed improvements and repairs across campus. We need budget managers to continue with their conservative spending habits. *(See attachment.)*

2009 Revenue Bond refunds..... Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts asked Mr. Rutledge to explain our 2009 bond situation. Mr. Rutledge explained that bonds were sold in order to build Foundation Hall and the Faculty/Staff Apartments and to make repairs to the Court of Governors in 2003. With the recent decline in real estate interest rates, it makes sense to refinance our bond debt and move it from a debt against the Foundation to a debt against DSU/IHL. By refinancing our current bond debt, we will have a net savings of \$1,788,261.59. The money being saved can only be used for maintenance and upkeep of Housing facilities. *(See attachment.)*

SGA State of the Union address Mr. Sykes

Mr. Sykes is implementing a State of the Union address for the Student Government Association, which will occur at the beginning of every spring semester. The first one is scheduled for February 8, 2016 at

5:00 p.m. Mr. Sykes stated there currently isn't anything in place that brings all branches of SGA together. He wants SGA to be more approachable for students to voice their concerns and for them to want to become involved. Also, he believes this will be a great tool to keep all members of SGA accountable to their positions since each member will have to give a testament of what they have accomplished thus far and what they plan to do the rest of the semester.

Other Discussion

- Dr. Carlson informed Cabinet Members that the RESSON's online Master's program is ranked in the top 4% (42 of 1,200) of online nursing programs. A press release will be released soon depicting this great achievement.
- Mr. Mayers informed Cabinet Members that our Spring Break does not match up with the Cleveland Public School system.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- DSU First Responders Recognition Reception, February 1, 1:00 p.m., President's Conference Room
- 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 – Monday, February 1, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Visioning Process Presentation (Ronnie and Steve)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:21 pm.