

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: January 9, 2017**

**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 January 9, 2017. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Dr. Jurgenson, seconded by Ms. Parker, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on December 12, 2016.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge arranged several meetings to discuss diversity initiatives for the Bologna Performing Arts Center and GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi. The purpose of the meetings was to make sure diversity is considered when choosing entertainment for Cleveland. The day time programs for both entities are doing well and garnering a lot of participation from area school children. However, there seems to be a cultural disconnect with some adults in the area.
- President LaForge announced Dr. William Bell of the Casey Family Foundation gave \$100,000 to Delta State in support of the Winning the Race Conference and the Local Government Training Academy project. Dr. Bell plans to visit campus in April for the Race Conference and this summer for the Mayors' Summit. A group of Delta State employees will travel to Seattle later this month to visit the Casey Family Programs' staff and to discuss ways for the two organizations to work together.
- President LaForge and Mr. Fulcher traveled to Atlanta to visit with key advisers for the upcoming capital campaign. During the trip, they visited with Dr. David Abney, Dr. Fred Carl, and Mr. Tim Harvey.
- President LaForge had the privilege of welcoming local boy scouts to the Merit Badge College hosted on Delta State's campus over the weekend. This was a great opportunity to highlight Delta State.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. Delta State hosts a double-header tonight for the men and women's basketball teams, with four more games occurring on Thursday and Saturday. Mr. Mayers informed Cabinet Members of a \$5,000 gift to the Foundation by Mr. Archie Manning in honor of student-athlete Mr. Tyler Sullivan and his achievements. The football team welcomed 19 mid-year transfers, and the football schedule has been set for the next three years. Mr. Mayers announced a new series for the football team beginning in 2018. Delta State will play Grand Valley State from Michigan for two years. The softball and baseball teams have begun practicing for their upcoming seasons. The swimming and diving teams will host Henderson State University on Saturday.
- President LaForge announced he will travel to Nashville, TN next week for the NCAA Convention. Mr.

Mayers and other Athletics staff members will be in attendance.

- Dr. McAdams informed Cabinet Members that students are re-enrolling for classes after being purged for non-payment. He stated a true reflection of enrollment will be seen next week. He believes our total enrollment for the semester will be similar to our standing last spring.
- Dr. Bennett announced the Okra Patch begins their mentoring programs this spring. Five local schools have signed on to be a part of this program including D.M. Smith Middle School, Cleveland Career Development and Technology Center, Cleveland High School, East Side High School, and Pearman Elementary School.
- Dr. Bennett announced a retirement celebration for Chief Lynn Buford is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17 in the Union beginning at 3:30 p.m.
- President LaForge gave an overview of his week. He will attend the Cleveland Music Foundation Board meeting on Tuesday and participate in a GSC Executive Committee call on Wednesday.
- President LaForge reminded Cabinet Members of the holiday on Monday, January 16 honoring Martin Luther King.

**CABINET TOPIC**

None

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

**Scholastic Honors policy (final reading) .....Dr. McAdams**

Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet the Scholastic Honors policy for a final reading. The policy was revised to conform to current practice. The definition of the four-year Honor Diploma and the two-year Doyce Stallings Mitchell Honor Diploma was changed to reflect a 4.0 GPA requirement in order to earn the diploma. If no student(s) obtains a 4.0 GPA, an honor diploma will not be presented.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the Scholastic Honors Policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Jurgenson. **This motion was approved.**

**Appendix 13a: Modifications to Existing Academic Unit Proposal .....Dr. McAdams**

Upon the approval and recommendation of Academic Council, Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet the IHL Appendix 13a: Modifications to Existing Academic Unit Proposal form, which requests changing the name of the College of Business to the College of Business and Aviation. Delta State is the only public university in Mississippi with an aviation program, and the renaming of the college would promote this unique program. Dr. McAdams said this recommended change was approved unanimously by the College of Business chairs.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve Appendix 13a: Modifications to Existing Academic Unit Proposal to rename the College of Business to the College of Business and Aviation and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. **This motion was approved.**

**Discussion**

**Summer Pay ..... Dr. Jurgenson**

Dr. Jurgenson informed Cabinet Members of a resolution passed in Faculty Senate to discuss summer pay for faculty members. Delta State has tried to bolster summer enrollment by adding additional summer

courses and marketing both sessions. Dr. Jurgenson stated it is the opinion of the Faculty Senate that the summer program would be more robust if the pay for faculty was not prorated and, instead, utilized a flat-fee system. Currently, faculty members are given full pay for a class of ten students or more, and classes with fewer than ten students receive pay based on the number of students enrolled in the course. Dr. Jurgenson said the belief is that more professors would be willing to teach summer courses if professors were offered full pay for a course, no matter the enrollment. A more robust summer program would appeal to current students and would ensure that certain classes needed for degree completion are offered more than once a year. Dr. McAdams stated most courses offered during the summer are general education courses and ones that are deemed to have a higher enrollment. Dr. McAdams stated the cost of providing full pay to faculty members, as well as any other costs associated with adding additional classes, would have to be taken up through the budget process. Ms. Rocconi informed Cabinet Members that most students exhaust their financial aid budget during fall and spring—not allowing for financial aid in the summer. President LaForge suggested Dr. Jurgenson take the summer pay resolution to Academic Council for their review. Additionally, Dr. Jurgenson brought to Cabinet two more resolutions passed by the Faculty Senate. One resolution suggests a university review of the eleven standing committees. The resolution seeks to address the lack of participation among faculty in regard to their service commitment to the university. Dr. Jurgenson has contacted the chair of each committee and requested meeting times and minutes of each meeting. The third resolution is to amend the university’s policy regarding disputes between faculty members and members of the administration. The resolution does not seek to change the policy, but to clarify the resources available to a faculty member with a grievance. Dr. Jurgenson has contacted Ms. Lisa Giger, Director of Human Resources, to talk with her about possible changes.

#### **Other Discussion**

- Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet Members that the contract for the Zeigel Hall renovation was changed to a different company due to a technical difficulty. The new contract is more than the original, but the Bureau of Buildings will fund the difference of \$98,000. The new company performing the renovations is Roy Collins Construction of Cleveland.
- Mr. Fulcher stated the Alumni Association has created and released a mobile app, and encouraged Cabinet members to download it. By December 31, the Foundation received \$301,000 of the \$600,000 goal for the Annual Fund. The Capital Campaign is continuing to take shape. The campaign consultants hosted a conference call this morning, and are pleased with the progress. A seven-person committee was created to review the beginning documents of the campaign, and they will meet in February.
- Dr. Roberts informed Cabinet Members that the Director of the Postal and Copy Center, Mr. Michael Martin, has announced his retirement. The search for a new director will begin soon. Also, the Administrative Secretary position in the President’s Office should be filled soon.
- Ms. Rocconi announced Staff Council fed approximately 300 staff members for the Staff Council breakfast and collected 453 toys for the toy drive.
- Ms. Parker announced the SGA Cabinet has personnel changes for the spring semester. SGA is working to bolster student involvement this spring with a Student Involvement Fair on January 18. Also, they are working on the Big Event, Student Legislative Day, and elections.
- President LaForge informed Cabinet Members that legislation is being drafted for the lease of the Delta State golf course. Also, we are waiting on a purchase price for the property adjacent to campus.

#### **INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Martin Luther King Holiday, January 16
- Alonzo King LINES Ballet, BPAC, January 31, 7:30 pm

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Tuesday, January 17 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.