

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT'S CABINET
Minutes

Meeting date: October 17, 2016

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, 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: Mr. Keith Fulcher

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on October 17, 2016. 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 October 10, 2016.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- The BPAC showcased the first performance of its Family Series lineup last week — the Shanghai Acrobats of the People's Republic of China. President LaForge stated it was a wonderful event.
- President LaForge visited Desoto County last week for a recruiting visit with Ms. Rocconi and Ms. Katie Shoemaker. During the visit, he met with juniors and seniors at Olive Branch High School and Lake Cormorant High School. Both schools were very accommodating, and they had great visits.
- President LaForge attended the GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi's "Take Me to the River" event last Wednesday. The event consisted of a screening of the documentary, "Take Me to the River," and a live performance by some of the musicians featured in the film.
- President LaForge addressed the Cleveland Noon Lions Club last Friday where he gave an update on university activities and also discussed the results of the university's visioning process.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. The football game was well attended, and the two teams scored over 100 points. The Cross Country team is doing well, and Friday's soccer games against Mississippi College were rescheduled for tomorrow.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the upcoming week's activities. He will have lunch with the Cleveland Influencers group on Tuesday. The Levitt AMP Music Series concert is Tuesday evening and features Nashville singer-songwriter Kate Campbell. On Wednesday and Thursday, President LaForge and other members of his Cabinet will be in Jackson for the IHL Board meeting. On Thursday, President LaForge will meet with Dr. Bobby Elliott and Mr. Neal Holcomb to discuss the Elliott Symposium and Dr. Elliott's research. The BPAC has a Main Stage performance on Thursday featuring Mavis Staples and the Blind Boys of Alabama. Before the performance, President LaForge hopes to meet with Ms. Staples to let her know Delta State has selected her to receive an honorary degree.
- President LaForge welcomed Dr. McAdams back to Cabinet after his trip to Perm State University in Russia. Dr. McAdams presented President LaForge with a gift on behalf of the rector of Perm State

National Research University to commemorate the occasion of their centennial anniversary. Dr. McAdams stated it was a wonderful trip, and we are working to expand our partnership with this university.

CABINET TOPIC

Mass E-mail for Communications Dr. Roberts

At the last Executive Committee meeting, questions were raised regarding the appropriate use of the university’s listservs. Dr. Roberts reminded Cabinet Members that this policy was approved by the Cabinet in June 2015, and its purpose is to limit emails sent to the various listservs to those items that are important university business. E-mails sent through the listserv must meet all criteria spelled out in the policy, must fall within an appropriate topic, and must not violate other university policies. Dr. Roberts stated a mass e-mail should be “need to know” information and not “want to know” information. Only authorized posting agents and their designees are allowed to send e-mails to the listservs. Mass e-mails should be sent out by the appropriate Vice President and sent to the appropriate listserv. If an employee has general information to share with the campus, they should submit the information using the “Announcements Form,” which is located on the website. Campus announcements are distributed to employees and current students via the “Announcements” section on the homepage of the university’s website as well as through a weekly e-mail.

BUSINESS

Action

Boy Scouts’ Merit Badge College President LaForge

President LaForge said the Boy Scouts’ Merit Badge College will be held on Delta State’s campus in early 2017. The local Boy Scout district is requesting the use of campus facilities at a discounted rate of \$850. They plan to use the State Room in the Union, eleven classrooms, and the Aquatics Center. Delta State has recently revised the fee schedule for rental/use of campus facilities to more closely represent fair and true market values. The cost for the facilities requested, using the new schedule that is in effect, is almost double the requested amount. Dr. Roberts proposed allowing the Boy Scouts’ Merit Badge College to use our facilities for \$850 if certain criteria are met: 1) credit Delta State in all publications, printed materials, and publicity as a co-sponsor of the Merit Badge College; 2) allow Delta State to showcase the university for the Scouts through introductory/welcoming remarks by an appropriate official; and, 3) allow Delta State to set up a recruiting table to provide university information to Scouts.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to waive half the cost of the facility fees for the Boy Scouts’ Merit Badge College if the contingencies are met and seconded by Dr. McAdams. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Faculty Senate Service Committee Dr. Jurgenson

Dr. Jurgenson informed Cabinet Members of a Faculty Senate resolution to create a Service Committee. The Service Committee was created by Dr. Severine Groh and there are five faculty members serving on the committee. The committee is taking part in the nationwide “Make A Difference Day.” This committee, in conjunction with the Bolivar County Literacy Council, is hosting “Ask Your Professor Anything” to help “Fund A Delta Tutor.” The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 22 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the H.L. Nowell Student Union. The event will allow

students to ask professors any question for \$2 per question. The goal is to raise money to fund two tutors for the Bolivar County Literacy Council's after-school tutoring program. President LaForge said he believes this will be a great way for faculty to participate in the community engagement visioning principle.

Homecoming 2016 Overview President LaForge

President LaForge stated Homecoming is an important event that takes careful planning by three campus entities: Student Affairs, Athletics, and Alumni Affairs. President LaForge shared a few positive reflections about Homecoming 2016: revival of the Homecoming parade, student activities throughout the week to keep students engaged, and a great crowd for the football game. After Homecoming, President LaForge received several complaints about the Alumni Affairs side of Homecoming, including: Alumni Award winners and honorees did not receive the exceptional treatment they deserved, and attendance was low at the Alumni Association Board meeting, Veteran's Ceremony, the Golden Circle Induction and Luncheon, and the Black Alumni Gala. President LaForge believes that a lack of planning, disorganization, and the shortage of publicity led to poor attendance. He stated that planning for an event of this nature should begin during the summer, and he said there is concern over ownership of the program. Also, the Alumni Association magazine has not been published for the year and their website needs updating. Proper emphasis needs to be placed on keeping alumni connected to Delta State. Suggestions for next year's Homecoming include: keep all events in a central location, publicize the event through different media outlets, and recruit volunteers to help with planning and executing events. President LaForge announced the creation of a Homecoming Review Task Force to discuss Homecoming 2016 and determine what changes need to be made in order to better prepare for Homecoming 2017 and to focus on a coordinated approach in order to best serve Delta State's alumni. President LaForge asked the following Cabinet members to serve on the task force: Dr. Bennett, Mr. Fulcher, Mr. Mayers, Ms. Parker, and Dr. Roberts.

Other Discussion

- President LaForge announced Cabinet will not meet on Monday, October 24. The next Cabinet meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 31.
- President LaForge asked Cabinet Members to help host his guests for the October 29 football reception since he will be unable to attend due to a family wedding.
- Ms. Parker announced she was asked to serve on the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Board. Also, she was elected to serve as the Vice President of the Student Government Presidents for the Institutions of Higher Learning.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Mavis Staples and the Blind Boys of Alabama, BPAC, October 20, 7:30 pm
- DSU vs. Univ. of N. Alabama, October 29, 2:00 pm (Wear White), Reception – 1:30 pm
- Colloquia Lecture Series, Congressman Bennie Thompson, November 9, 6:00 pm, Jobe Auditorium

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, October 31 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Mississippi Flag

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.