

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT’S CABINET
Minutes

Meeting date: December 14, 2015

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Libby Carlson, Dr. E.E. Caston, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Dr. Charles McAdams, Mr. Steve McClellan, Ms. Marilyn Read, and Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Mikel Sykes (via phone)
(Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: Mr. Ronnie Mayers

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President’s Cabinet was held in the President’s Conference Room on December 14, 2015. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge stated the RESSON Pinning Ceremony was a beautiful ceremony and does a good job of showcasing our Nursing program.
- President LaForge was very pleased with our Commencement exercises. He heard great reviews about having it in the BPAC — nicer venue and less mischief.
- President LaForge attended the Athletic Department Christmas Party and their mid-year football recruits event. President LaForge mentioned the great work our basketball teams are doing this season —our women’s team is undefeated.
- President LaForge discussed this week’s schedule. He will have lunch with Cleveland Influencers on Tuesday. The Staff Council Holiday Breakfast is on Thursday at 8:30 a.m. in the Leroy Morganti Atrium. The IHL Board meeting will convene via teleconference on Thursday.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. McClellan, seconded by Dr. Roberts, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on December 9, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

Visioning Process.....Mr. Fulcher

Mr. Fulcher began his presentation by stating the Foundation is preparing for a Capital Campaign to help fund the visions for Delta State University in the years leading up to our centennial anniversary. One important aspect of the Capital Campaign will be the case statement that will list the top priorities of the University and will be shown to potential donors. Mr. Fulcher has created a timeline for the pre-plan portion of the Capital Campaign which will hopefully be carried out by July 1. Mr. Fulcher will meet with Foundation Board President Tim Harvey to discuss the timeline and to gain the Board’s approval to begin each of the next steps. One idea to raise funds is through naming opportunities. The success of our Capital Campaign will determine the success of Delta State over the next ten years.

BUSINESS

Action

Academic CalendarDr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet a recommendation from Academic Council for the 2016-17 Academic Calendar. Due to IHL regulations, each three hour credit class must meet for a total of 2,250 minutes of instruction during the semester. The holidays create a shortage of time available for certain class meetings. Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes will need an additional twenty minutes of instruction to meet the required time, and Monday night classes will need to meet ten minutes longer each class period to meet the requirement. The shortage of time available for class meetings in order to meet the required amount of instruction time caused Academic Council to have to choose between a full week off for the Thanksgiving Break or having a Fall Break. Dr. McAdams asked Mr. Sykes to weigh in on the situation to give a student’s perspective. On Mr. Sykes recommendation, Academic Council chose to take a full week off for the Thanksgiving break and eliminate the Fall Break. Also, earlier in the year, Mr. Sykes requested, on behalf of the student body, to start school on a Tuesday and use Monday as a registration day. This request is not possible due to the shortage in available days to meet for class.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the 2016-17 Academic Calendar recommended by Academic Council and seconded by Dr. Caston. **The motion was approved.**

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

Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet a revised edition of the policy for Awarding Privately Funded Scholarships. A sentence was added under “Procedures and Responsibilities” in order to provide clarification. The new addition states, “unless otherwise specified by the grantor, privately funded scholarships should be awarded to new or returning students to assist with their educational costs, not as a reward for graduation.” Scholarships should be used to retain current students or recruit a new student to Delta State.

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

Discussion

Foundation Funds President LaForge

President LaForge announced that the Foundation secured \$163,000 in unrestricted funds that are immediately available for use. The Vice Presidents brought recommendations to the Executive Committee meeting to decide on priority projects in each area. President LaForge asked each Vice President to inform Cabinet Members of what improvements would be made in their respected areas. Dr. McAdams stated Academic Affairs will receive \$75,000, and will use the money to boost recruitment and retention efforts. In the area of recruitment, the unrestricted funds will be used to increase communication with prospective students. Promotional videos, revamped marketing to community colleges, geo-target market campaigning, and updated social media campaigns will be used. In the area of retention, the funds will be used to hire more tutors, create incentives for students to register earlier, and create a Pivot Program through the Student Success Center. Mr. McClellan stated that Finance will receive \$45,000 to purchase a Cash Value machine for the Library and to purchase and restore the windows in Broom Hall. Student Affairs will receive \$3,500 to purchase five rifles for the Police Department to increase their ability to protect our campus. Dr. Roberts informed Cabinet members the \$40,000 received for University Relations will be used to promote the visibility of

our campus through banners, flags, and collaterals. Also, she stated that the Executive Committee committed \$40,000 of our FY17 Facilities/Campus Improvement funds to update campus signage.

Other Discussion

- President LaForge informed Cabinet Members that SGA submitted several resolutions to him. President LaForge has distributed the resolutions to the appropriate Vice President for review, and they will bring it to Cabinet for action, when appropriate.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Winter Holidays, December 23 - January 1
- Administrative Staff Council's Staff Holiday Breakfast, December 17, 8:30 – 10:00 am., Leroy Morganti Atrium, Kent Wyatt Hall
- Martin Luther King holiday, January 18, 2016
- GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, Grand Opening, March 5
- IHL Board meeting at DSU, April 21, 2016

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, January 11, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm.