

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: February 22, 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

**Guests:** Ms. Julie Jackson, Title IX Coordinator  
Dr. Eyad Youssef, President-Elect, Faculty Senate

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

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge gave an update on the Vice President for Student Affairs search. The search committee has narrowed the candidate pool to three. All candidates will visit campus during the week of February 29. The search committee has set aside times for various groups on campus to have a chance to meet each candidate.
- President LaForge asked Dr. McAdams to give an update on the Vice President for Finance and Administration search. Dr. McAdams stated the committee will meet tomorrow to review the applications and to narrow the choices. President LaForge informed Cabinet Members that an Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration would be named.
- President LaForge stated each university president for the IHL system was given the opportunity to testify about their funding needs during the Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing last Monday.
- President LaForge and the COEHS hosted Mr. Cory Uselton, Superintendent of Desoto County Schools, and had a great visit. Delta State recruits heavily in Desoto County and would like for Mr. Uselton to recommend Delta State to more of his students. In return, Delta State will recommend Desoto County to our student teachers.
- President LaForge gave an update on topics discussed at the IEO and IHL Board meetings. He informed Cabinet Members the new GIS degree program was approved and the bond resell for Foundation Hall is moving along, but diligence is still required. A big topic discussed was an update to the Firearms Policy. Another important topic discussed was the State flag. Mr. Sykes stated the letter from the student body presidents to the legislature will go out soon requesting a change in the flag. The student body presidents met with the Speaker of the House, Mr. Phillip Gunn, regarding the issue, and their ideas were well received. President LaForge stated IHL's Chief Administrative Officer, Marcus Thompson, has requested that each university make a donation to the IHL Foundation to support Commissioner Glenn Boyce's need to host various officials. President LaForge has requested that Delta State's Foundation make a donation to this fund.

- President LaForge stated three great events occurred on Thursday and Friday: the Mamma Mia performance at the BPAC, Mr. McClellan’s Farewell Reception, and the Junior Auxiliary Charity Ball.
- President LaForge asked Mr. Mayers to give an update on Athletics. Mr. Mayers stated it was a great weekend for DSU Athletics. The baseball team won two of three games. Our softball team won all three of their games. The men’s basketball team won both of their games, and the women’s basketball team won one of two games. Mr. Mayers was pleased to announce the men’s swimming and diving team won the New South Intercollegiate Swim Conference. The women’s swimming and diving team placed second. Twenty two members of the swimming and diving teams have qualified for the National Championship.
- President LaForge discussed this week’s schedule. Senator Willie Simmons is hosting a community meeting regarding the impact of GRAMMY Museum Mississippi on Cleveland and Bolivar County. President LaForge will participate in the panel discussion. On Tuesday, President LaForge will meet with FedEx CEO, Fred Smith, to begin a dialogue and to ask him to be a Colloquia Series speaker in the future. On Wednesday, President LaForge will meet with Staplcofn executives to ask for their continued support, will speak to the Lion’s Club Youth Leadership Seminar in Greenwood, and will host, along with Cabinet members, a farewell dinner for Mr. McClellan. The DSU Jazz Band will host the Fighting Okra Big Band Dine and Dance event at the Cleveland Country Club on Friday to help with their fundraising efforts. AAUW will host their annual Tech Savvy Conference on Saturday, and the Thacker Mountain Radio Show will broadcast from the Delta Music Institute on Saturday.

**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 February 15, 2016.

**CABINET TOPIC**

**Budget Process Presentations ..... Cabinet**

Dr. McAdams and Mr. Fulcher presented their budget requests, in priority order, for new initiatives. Mr. McClellan will draft a list of what he believes should be the top priority items, should the budget allow for new and expanded activities.

**Academic Affairs:** One-time costs - \$445,094. Recurring costs - \$562,945. Priority areas include: Search for High School Sophomores and Juniors, Academic Support Specialist, Center for Teaching and Learning, Call Center, Transfer Recruiter, Supplemental Instruction, Cleveland Community Awareness, Retention Funds for Pivot Program (see presentation)

**Foundation:** Priority areas include: Campaign Funding in years 2017 and 2018, New and expanded fundraising positions to support Capital Campaign, University absorbing Development staff salaries, Alumni-Foundation transportation, Renovation of Interior and Exterior of Alumni-Foundation House (see presentation)

**Visioning Process Presentation ..... Mr. McClellan**

Mr. McClellan’s vision for Delta State is to have our campus look and run as it should and not be neglected. Several elevators across campus (Library, Ewing, Union, and Broom) do not work properly and need to be fixed or replaced. He would like to see annual maintenance and repair funds added to the budget for this process. The outdoor lighting needs to be updated and switched to energy efficient lighting. The wiring and switches used to operate campus lights need to be updated — this process could be completed in three phases. The fire suppression system in Kethley Hall, which holds Delta

State’s computer servers, needs to be changed to a dry suppression system instead of wet in order to protect our servers. Three of the campus buildings that are under the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for preservation — Wright Hall, Cleveland Hall, and Ward Hall — could all use minor touch ups, without spending a lot of money, to make them look better. Several residence halls need a facelift: Lawler-Harkins, Fugler Hammett, Hill Apartments, Brumby-Castle, and the Court of Governors. By giving the dorms a facelift, our students will have more pride in where they live and give future students better options for housing. Mr. McClellan would like to see an Energy Management Coordinator hired to keep track of the HVAC system. This will allow Facilities Management to know when a building is too hot or cold instead of waiting for someone to call them. He believes this position would pay for itself. Also, he would like for the University to purchase e-market software to give our employees a ticketing system for athletic events, camps, conferences, etc. This would keep each department from having to purchase their own system. Lastly, Mr. McClellan would like to see Hugh White Hall be transformed into a useful building instead of being used for storage. His suggestion is to move the Alumni-Foundation Office and/or the Delta Center for Culture and Learning into this space. He believes this would be a great item for our Capital Campaign. He would also like to remodel the Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House to make it into a food court or used as office space by Enrollment Management.

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

**Title IX Policy (Final Reading) .....Dr. Caston**

Dr. Caston welcomed Ms. Julie Jackson and asked Cabinet Members for any recommendations for the draft Title IX Policy. Cabinet members made a few suggestions regarding clarifications within the policy. Once approved, the policy will be ready for use by all audiences. Dr. Caston would like for the policy committee to remain as the standing committee for Title IX hearings.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Caston to approve the Title IX Policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Roberts. **The motion was approved.**

**City Scholarship for Fire Protection .....Mr. McClellan**

Mr. McClellan informed Cabinet Members that Delta State gives a monetary gift of \$12,000 each year to support Cleveland’s Volunteer Fire Department. Recently, Delta State was asked to make a larger contribution to the Fire Department; however, it is not within the University’s budget. In order to help the Fire Department, Mr. McClellan recommended providing a scholarship for children of city employees with the hope that children of fire fighters will get first consideration. The Mayor of Cleveland will be asked to determine the selection process. The scholarship total is \$5,000 and will be funded annually from institutional funds, in addition to our current gift of \$12,000.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. McClellan to approve the use of Institutional funds for the scholarship for Fire Protection and seconded by Dr. McAdams. **The motion was approved.**

**Discussion**

**Enrollment Update .....Dr. McAdams**

Dr. McAdams gave a progress report for fall enrollment, showing five-year trend data. Compared to this time last year, our numbers are up for first time freshmen applications, application fees, and provisional admits. Our numbers are also up for transfer student applications from community

colleges. The main indicator Dr. McAdams is looking to is the number of provisional admits, which is up in all territories covered by our recruiters except one. Dr. McAdams feels that additional time is needed to see if this will be a trend leading to an increase in enrollment for the fall.

#### **Other Discussion**

- President LaForge asked Mr. McClellan for an update on campus projects. Mr. McClellan stated he has not heard of a finalized date for the two auditoriums in Caylor/White-Walters. The chilled-water loop project has been held up due to Bureau of Buildings regulations. Mr. McClellan stated the street paving project should be completed during Spring Break.
- Mr. Sykes informed Cabinet Members that petitions for SGA officers went out today, and elections are coming up.
- President LaForge expressed his gratitude to Mr. McClellan and the wonderful contribution he has made to the University by helping us with our budget situation. Mr. McClellan stated he has thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone the past two years.

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

- GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, Grand Opening, March 5
- Go Green Weekend, April 1-3
- 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 29, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Visioning Process Presentation - Butch

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.