

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: February 29, 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, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, and Mr. Mikel Sykes (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: None

Guests: Dr. Richard Houston, Director, Counseling and Student Health Services
Mr. Davlon Miller, Director, Career Services
Ms. Jeanna Wilkes, Director, Student Life

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on February 29, 2016. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge welcomed Mr. Jamie Rutledge as Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration. He thanked Mr. Rutledge for his commitment and willingness to serve in this role.
- President LaForge gave an update on the Vice President for Student Affairs search. Three candidates were scheduled to come to campus this week, but one candidate, Dr. Tylor Behrens, will not make it. Dr. Vernell Bennett will be on campus March 1 and Dr. Peter Ngatia will be on campus March 2.
- President LaForge asked Dr. McAdams to give an update on the Vice President for Finance and Administration search. Dr. McAdams stated the search has been narrowed to three candidates, and phone interviews will take place over Spring Break.
- President LaForge attended a community meeting last week regarding the impact of the GRAMMY Museum on the community. He stated it was a good meeting, and DSU was well represented.
- President LaForge and Mr. Fulcher had a meeting with FedEx CEO, Fred Smith, last week. During their meeting, President LaForge extended an invitation to Mr. Smith to be a Colloquium speaker.
- President LaForge visited Greenwood last week to meet with Staplcofn Executives and speak to students at the 36th Annual Lion's Club Youth Leadership Seminar.
- President LaForge attended the Fighting Okra Big Band Dine and Dance event and the Thacker Mountain Radio Show over the weekend. He stated both were great events.
- President LaForge asked Mr. Mayers to give an update on Athletics. Mr. Mayers stated Devin Schmidt and Chelsey Rhodes were named GSC Players of the Year. Our softball team won all of their games over the weekend, and baseball won two of three games. Twenty-one members of our Swimming and Diving team will leave for the National Championships on Sunday. The first round of the GSC Conference for Women's Basketball will be held on campus Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.
- President LaForge discussed this week's schedule. President LaForge met with the ACBSP Re-affirmation team this morning, and asked Cabinet Members to extend hospitality to them throughout their visit. The BPAC will present BODYTRAFFIC on Tuesday evening. President and Mrs. LaForge have invited Allie Rose Parker (Miss DSU), Scottie Willis (Mr. DSU), Gillian Oakley (Miss Delta State), and

Ariana Hodges (Mrs. LaForge's cousin) to be their guests for the event. President LaForge will travel to Greenville, MS on Thursday to have lunch with newly elected Mayor Errick Simmons.

- President LaForge reminded Cabinet Members that Spring Holidays begin March 7.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Mayers, seconded by Ms. Read, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on February 22, 2016.

CABINET TOPIC

Visioning Process PresentationDr. Caston

Dr. Caston invited Mr. Davlon Miller, Mr. Mikel Sykes, Dr. Richard Houston, and Ms. Jeanna Wilkes to discuss their vision for their respective areas of Student Affairs.

Career Services: Mr. Miller would like to collaborate with the Student Success Center on working with students who have undeclared majors. By doing so, he hopes to assist students with career aspects of their coursework and get students plugged into job shadowing and internships to narrow their interests. To help students prepare for life after graduation, he would like to work with different departments to add career elements into programs of study. Aspects to be added to the program of study would be: a required professionalism course, resumes completed by sophomore year, job shadowing, mock interviews, and life management skills training. Mr. Miller would like to build a stronger relationship with employers to help students gain access to mentors and allow for students to work with local employers on community outreach projects. The Career Services office would like to see their services for students increase with career assessment software, graduation tracking and follow up, expanding Statesmen Connect, and additional staff to help with expanded services.

Union Program Council: The Union Program Council (UPC) would like to develop a philosophy/plan for programming with focuses on diversity and community, Title IX, and social and fun aspects. To better understand students' likes and dislikes of programming, UPC would like to incorporate an attendance tracking system. This would track attendance as well as aid with promotion of the event. Delta State's campus is lacking in an area for students to spend time with other students doing extracurricular activities. UPC would like to see a Student Activity Center developed to house a lounge, late night food options, games, and a media center. Due to the current Student Activity fee, UPC is limited in the types of programming they can bring to campus. By increasing the Student Activity fee, a broader range of activities and programming can be brought to campus and allow for more members of UPC to attend professional development conferences.

Student Government Association: Mr. Mikel Sykes stated that students do not see SGA as being beneficial to them during their college career, and he would like to see that change. Mr. Sykes feels that an incentives-based program would increase student participation in SGA. By increasing involvement through incentives, more students will understand why partaking in student government is beneficial for them and their organizations in order for their concerns to be heard. SGA would like to create a Delta State Relations Chair to contribute to the building of relationships with DSU faculty and staff advisors of student organizations to help promote involvement in student government. Mr. Sykes would like to see all student organizations run as a cohesive unit under the President's Council. By increasing student involvement on campus and giving students valuable experiences throughout their college careers, Mr. Sykes believes retention rates will increase.

Counseling and Student Health Services: The vision for Counseling and Student Health is focused on the mental, physical, and relational health and wellness of the DSU Community by supporting student success through health education, promoting healthy choices, and health activism. To help support students, the Student Health Center will focus on preventative and therapeutic services to aid in the growth of an individual by offering programming on mental health issues, suicide prevention training, licensed nurses to triage and execute medical orders, providing a healthcare program for students during off semesters, and promoting a culture of support with the help of student volunteers who could serve as Health Campaign promoters. One area Counseling and Student Health Services would like to see grow is their ability to provide individualized support services to students with disabilities.

Student Life: The Office of Student Life would like to update and redefine the process of the Confidential Assessment Response Team (CART). Awareness needs to be brought to this process to make sure all faculty, staff, and students know about the program and how to use it. The Office of Student Life wants to make the entire student body aware that Greek organizations are accessible to all students and help implement a more effective method of recruitment. One aspect the Office of Student Life would like to initiate is having all potential new members of Greek organizations complete the alcohol.edu program before registering for recruitment. The Office of Student Life would like to redefine Orientation to help increase attendance and make it more beneficial to attendees. Also, they would like to develop the Parent’s Association into an actual organization and create a home office for disciplinary procedures. In the coming years, the Office of Student Life would like to house all activity groups and hire a Student Activity Coordinator to oversee all of these units.

BUSINESS

Action

Contracts Policy (First Reading)..... Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge suggested adding the statement, “and are subject to the Anti-Kickback Act of 1986” to the Policy Statement and add “Anti-Kickback Act of 1986” to the “Related Documents” section of the Contracts Policy to better protect the university when entering into binding contracts.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the Contracts Policy for a first reading and seconded by Dr. Caston. **The motion was approved.**

Email for Terminated/Retired Employees Policy (First Reading) Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge brought to Cabinet the “Access to University Information Technology Resources” policy for a first reading. Upon reviewing the policy, it was decided that it was not ready for voting and would be brought back to Cabinet at a later date. *President LaForge suggested that Mr. Rutledge work with Dr. Roberts, Dr. Edwin Craft, Chief Information Officer, and Mrs. Lisa Giger, Human Resources Director, to harmonize this proposed policy with the retiree benefits policy.*

Discussion

Hotel Proposal..... President LaForge

President LaForge informed Cabinet Members a group from Jackson has approached him about possibly building a boutique hotel on Delta State’s campus. The group proposing this idea bases their rationale on the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi and the potential it brings to Cleveland. The hotel would be built on the South end of the golf course. President LaForge stated that this venture would

need to produce a revenue stream for the university in order for it to be considered. President LaForge wanted to convey the idea to Cabinet Members before accepting a meeting to hear the proposal from the group. Cabinet Members agreed to move forward on learning more about the proposal.

GRAMMY Museum Mississippi Grand Opening President LaForge

President LaForge asked Dr. Roberts to update Cabinet Members on the Grand Opening schedule of GRAMMY Museum Mississippi. Dr. Roberts informed Cabinet Members that the opening will take place on Saturday, March 5 beginning at 10:00 a.m. with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. A free concert on the grounds will begin at 11:00 a.m. and last until 5:00 p.m. A Benefit Concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the BPAC, and tickets can be purchased through the ticket office. The Benefit Concert performers were announced earlier today: Mac McNally, the Williams Brothers, Sonny Landreth, and Muddy Magnolias. Dr. Roberts gave each Cabinet Member a VIP Bag that will be given to all attendees at the Grand Opening Gala Friday evening. The bag contains a DSU Visitor's guide, a card with the Delta State guitar pick on it, a pamphlet detailing events for GRAMMY week, and a campus map with points of interest. The Chamber of Commerce has asked all local businesses with marquees to create a welcome message for GRAMMY visitors. The stamp cancellation table will be set-up on the Museum grounds on Saturday for anyone who wants to purchase an envelope or postcard with the stamp cancellation on it. Campus banners and signs are going up around campus and the Delta State entrance sign will be complete by opening day. Several offices are considering staying open on Saturday such as DMI, the Aquatics Center, Archives, Ferriss Museum, the Bookstore, the Dining Hall, and the Residence Halls. The weekend continues with Gospel on the Grounds on Sunday afternoon. The museum will be open for viewing throughout the weekend and tickets are \$12. President LaForge will send a Campus Update to encourage students, faculty, and staff to support the GRAMMY Museum on Saturday and Sunday.

Police Services for GRAMMY Museum Mississippi.....Dr. Caston

Dr. Caston stated that Chief Lynn Buford has worked with GRAMMY Museum Mississippi staff to create an understanding of what is expected of each party for the provision of Police Services by Delta State. By identifying the logistics now, our police force is trying to prevent any problems occurring later.

Other Discussion

- Dr. McAdams informed Cabinet Members that Delta Regional Medical Center donated \$20,000 to Delta State to support Nursing faculty. This is their first gift to Delta State in many 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, March 14, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.