

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: November 16, 2015

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, 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: Dr. Libby Carlson

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on November 16, 2015. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge announced Delta State will host the IHL Board meeting on our campus on April 20-21, 2016. This date was chosen due to the opening of the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi in March and the Sara Evan's BPAC performance on April 21.
- President LaForge announced Dr. Caston has agreed to stay in the Interim Vice President for Student Affairs role until the position is filled or until June 30, 2016. President LaForge expressed his appreciation for Dr. Caston's willingness to serve. The search for Vice President for Student Affairs is suspended as of now, but will re-open December 15 and close January 30, 2016. By suspending the search — and reopening without the additional duties of Enrollment Management — the committee is hopeful of a pool increase. A search firm has not been approached yet, and possibly won't be pursued. The committee would like to have a decision by early April.
- President LaForge stated he will send an update to the campus, either today or tomorrow, regarding personnel changes. The changes to be mentioned are the new Human Resources Director, Ms. Lisa Giger; Interim Title IX Coordinator, Ms. Julie Jackson; Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area Board Appointee, Dr. Charles McAdams; and, Bolivar Medical Foundation Board Appointee, Mr. Steve McClellan.
- President LaForge stated the Robert M. Hearin Foundation Support Foundation Beneficiaries Meeting went well and gave universities and art communities a chance to showcase how their funds are being used. The Hearin Foundation representatives spoke highly of our grants and our partnerships with the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi and Teach For America. President LaForge stated the Hearin Foundation is very interested in collaboration between beneficiaries and will be looking for collaboration in funding requests in the coming year.
- President LaForge attended the DMI Show Off Party for their new recording equipment. President LaForge stated the equipment is top-notch and will be a great recruiting tool.
- President LaForge asked Mr. Mayers to give an update on Athletics. Mr. Mayers stated Delta State beat Mississippi College in football allowing us to keep the Heritage Bell another year. The Heritage Bell needs to be updated. Athletics will work with the Alumni Association to begin this process. Mr. Mayers stated our swimming and diving team and basketball team also had wins over the weekend.

- Dr. Caston stated the new radios for the Police Department are here and are operative. The radios are connected to all state law enforcement agencies. Also, the bullet proof vests have been ordered and should arrive soon.
- President LaForge discussed this week’s schedule. He will attend the IEO meeting for university presidents on Wednesday and the IHL Board Meeting on Thursday in Jackson. The BPAC Performance “A Very Electric Christmas” is on Thursday. President and Mrs. LaForge have invited Dr. and Mrs. Chuck Westmoreland, Ms. Michelle Johansen and her family, and Ms. Elizabeth Schmidt and her family to be their guests. The Mississippi Economic Council will host their Board Dinner and Board Meeting on campus Thursday and Friday. On Friday, President and Mrs. LaForge will travel to Blacksburg, VA to attend a retirement event for Mr. Tom Tillar at Virginia Tech.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Caston, seconded by Dr. McAdams, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on November 9, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

New Degree Program ProposalDr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams explained to Cabinet Members the process for creating a new degree program. IHL created a two-step process: authorization to plan a new program (Appendix 7) and the proposal (Appendix 8.) Cabinet approved Appendix 7 for the Bachelor of Applied Science in Geospatial Analysis and Intelligence in July allowing for it to be turned into IHL by August 1. Appendix 7 will be voted on by the IHL Board this Thursday. In hopes of approval of Appendix 7, Dr. McAdams is bringing Appendix 8 to Cabinet for approval. The Bachelor of Applied Science in Geospatial Analysis and Intelligence involves a partnership with the U.S. Marine Corps and was developed based on their needs. This program will be an all online program taught mostly by adjuncts, and with an overwhelming majority of students being from the military. Students can pursue some coursework with Mississippi Delta Community College such that they may reverse-transfer DSU credits and earn an Associate Degree in General Studies. Most of the costs of the program will be absorbed by the GIS Center through their grants and contract work. The date of implementation for this program is Fall 2016. The six year cost of implementation will be \$367,500, which is the cost of teaching the program. Dr. McAdams stated that Commissioner Boyce challenged Chief Academic Officers to create degree programs that are unique to Mississippi. The Bachelor of Applied Science in Geospatial Analysis and Intelligence is unique and is a growth area of interest. This is not a program being built hoping students will be interested; rather, students are waiting for its completion.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve “Appendix 8: New Degree Program Proposal” and seconded by Dr. Roberts. **The motion was approved.**

Boy Scouts requestMr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan reiterated a decision Cabinet Members made in the past of not waiving any fees for facility use unless it was approved by Cabinet. The Chickasaw Council hosts their Merit Badge College

on Delta State's campus every year. In the past, they have been charged \$850. The cost to use all the facilities requested is \$1,350; however, Chickasaw Council only budgeted for \$850 and cannot pay the additional \$500. Mr. McClellan stated this is a great way to recruit future students for Delta State and believes it would be a good idea to waive the additional cost this year with the understanding that the full fee will be charged in the future.

Motion: Moved by Mr. McClellan to charge the Chickasaw Council \$850 for this year only and resume full price in future years and seconded by Dr. Roberts. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Special, mid-year consideration for salary increases Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan stated there is some confusion as to what constitutes a serious inquiry for mid-year raises. Unless it is an emergency situation, Mr. McClellan believes the inquiry needs to follow the budget request cycle. However, a department has the ability to use their own funds to increase a salary if the department has funds available. If we increase salaries mid-year, the funds will have to come from our reserves. Mr. McClellan will review the requests he receives, and bring a recommendation to the Cabinet on those that are "extreme" cases.

Other Discussion

- President LaForge joined 20 international media personnel during their tour of the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi. During the tour, a few interviewed him on the educational partnership between Delta State University and the GRAMMY Museum, which allowed him to highlight various departments on campus.
- Mr. Sykes invited Cabinet Members to the Grand Re-Opening of the SGA Office and to help host Mr. Charlie McGuffee who funded the refurbishing of the office.
- Dr. Roberts informed Cabinet Members of our plan to deliver the remaining plaques from our Law Enforcement Recognition on October 24. If any Cabinet Member plans to travel through Greenville, Beulah, Vicksburg, Oxford, Clarksdale, or Jackson, Dr. Roberts asked them to see Ms. Cole, and she will give them the plaque to deliver.
- President LaForge encouraged Cabinet Members to check out the recent edition of the Delta State Alumni Magazine. He stated it is a great issue.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- BPAC's "A Very Electric Christmas", November 19, 7:00 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Holidays, November 26-27
- Fall Commencement, Graduate students, BPAC, December 11, 7:30 pm
- Fall Commencement, Undergraduate students, BPAC, December 12, 10:00 am
- Winter Holidays, December 23 - January 1
- GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, Grand Opening, March 5
- IHL Board meeting at DSU, April 21, 2016

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, November 30, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:39 pm.