

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: September 21, 2015

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Butch Caston, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Dr. Debbie Heslep, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Mr. Steve McClellan, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Mikel Sykes, Dr. Myrtis Tabb and Ms. Leigh Emerson

Members not in attendance: Dr. Libby Carlson

Guest: Mr. Jeffrey Farris, Director of Alumni Affairs

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on September 21, 2015. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge announced that Dr. Chuck Westmoreland and Dr. Mike Smith attended the services for Dr. Ethan Schmidt on Saturday in Peabody, KS.
- President LaForge asked everyone to send to Ms. Emerson the names of those we need to thank for their assistance with last week's events.
- President LaForge announced he was interviewed last week with Thomas Roberts of MSNBC Live, Karen Workman of *The New York Times*, and Jack Stribling of *The Chronicle of Higher Education* regarding the shooting that took place on campus.
- President LaForge spoke to the community, alongside Mayor Billy Nowell, before the Levitt AMP Concert Series to highlight our town-gown relationship during these difficult times and to thank those involved with Monday's events.
- President LaForge had a meeting with Dr. Rolando Herts, Dr. McAdams, and Ms. Maggie Tyler, Program Officer of the National Park Service, to discuss the National Heritage Area. The National Park Service is supportive of what we are doing, and we will continue to build relationships with them.
- President LaForge attended the BPAC Performance of *The Time Jumper's*, and he asked Dr. Tabb to reflect on the performance. She stated it was a very successful show and it was almost a sellout crowd with over 1,000 tickets sold. Mr. Vince Gill ended the night with a thoughtful tribute for the previous week's events.
- President LaForge and other representatives from DSU attended the Law Enforcement's "Active Shooter Hotwash" meeting to discuss Monday's events.
- President LaForge thanked Mr. Jeffrey Farris and his staff for a job well done for this year's 30th Annual Pig Pickin' activities. He also shared his thanks to the Alumni group for supplying free tickets to faculty and staff to help encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the festivities. Mr. Farris stated they are continually trying to add more activities and cooking teams, but he felt all the events went well. He thanked the campus for supporting their efforts.
- Mr. Mayers announced that a moment of silence was held for Dr. Ethan Schmidt before each athletic event this week. He also stated that all of the athletic events were well attended, and we had approximately 8,500 at the football game.

- Dr. Heslep stated we had a successful DSU Day. We had 120 students and approximately 200 parents to attend. The numbers are down a little; but, of those that attended, 70% have applied for admission and several more picked up applications.
- President LaForge announced the new dates for the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi opening are March 4-6. They will have a gala on Friday evening, the grand opening will be on Saturday, and they will have events on Sunday as well. This is the Friday before Spring Break weekend, so we need to discuss opening the residence halls and dining hall to allow students to stay and attend the events.
- President LaForge discussed this week’s schedule. He attended a GRAMMY Board meeting this morning, and on Tuesday he will travel to Jackson for the IHL hearing before the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. We will have a DSU Emergency Procedures Assessment meeting on Wednesday morning, and then he will meet with Dr. Garry Jennings and Dr. Temika Simmons to get an update on the 2016 Race Conference. On Thursday, he will travel to Greenwood to speak to the Kiwanis Club, and that afternoon he will meet with Dr. Valmadge Towner, President of Coahoma Community College, and his staff to discuss the Early College Model. On Saturday, we will host Albany State University at 2:00 pm for the football game and reception.
- Dr. Roberts announced we have been invited to the United Way Kickoff event on Tuesday at noon at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. The tickets are \$7.00 if anyone is interested in attending. Mr. Davlon Miller will be there as a representative of DSU.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. McAdams, seconded by Ms. Read, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on September 16, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

Emergency Response Review President LaForge

President LaForge stated this is a broad overview today, and we will have a thorough emergency procedures assessment on Wednesday. Dr. Roberts distributed copies of the communication timeline via social media for September 14, Dr. McAdams distributed comments from faculty/students that Academic Affairs collected, and Ms. Read distributed comments received from staff members. Cabinet members discussed ways to enhance our emergency response system.

BUSINESS

Action

Authorized Posting Agents..... Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts distributed a revised list of “Authorized Posting Agents” for the listservs. The original list was approved in June. She recommended adding the Director of Communications and Marketing and their designee to the emergency list. After what we experienced on Monday, this is a necessary addition so that they can communicate with the campus during an emergency.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Roberts to approve this addition, and seconded by Dr. Tabb. **The motion was approved.**

Tuition Rates..... Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan stated that Delta State’s proposed tuition rates for the next two to three years need to be submitted to IHL. He suggested a 5% increase in FY16, 0% increase in FY17, and another 5% increase in FY18. This should keep us in line with the other universities. The recommendation was made to use an even number for the total tuition dollars so that it is an even amount for each semester.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Caston to approve the recommended percentage increases, and seconded by Dr. Roberts. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Coliseum Repairs Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan stated we have had structural problems at Walter Sillers Coliseum for years; however, the problem has escalated to a level that IHL staff feel the entrance is unsafe. They have taken soil samples to try and identify the problem. They are working on a long term solution, but must barricade the entrance until they fix the issue. It was stated that we should not rent the facility to any outside agencies until the problem is corrected. We also need to look at reserving the BPAC as a backup plan for our Fall Commencement ceremony.

Campus Forums Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts announced President LaForge had planned to host Open Forums with faculty, staff, and students on Wednesday, September 23, but with Monday’s events we are now trying to determine the appropriate timing. Topics will include enrollment, building projects, budget, etc. Cabinet members agreed to keep the Campus Forums separate from Dr. McAdams’ Strategy Planning Process for academics. Dr. Roberts will plan accordingly.

Other Discussion

- Dr. McAdams stated he has advertised the Academic Fundraiser position, and he has received several applications.
- Dr. Heslep stated she and Mr. McClellan will meet this week to discuss the kiosk/greeter for Kent Wyatt Hall.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- DSU vs Albany State University, September 26, 2:00 p.m. (wear white)
- Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, September 28, 5:30 pm social, 6:30 p.m. dinner and program, Cleveland Country Club
- Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy (rescheduled), October 1
- Ribbon cutting for Tim and Nancy Harvey Baseball Stadium, Ferriss Legend Award, and Statue Unveiling, October 3, 2:00 pm, Ferriss Field
- Retirement Celebration for Dr. Myrtis Tabb, October 16, 2:00 pm, BPAC
- Naming Ceremony of New Men's Residence Hall to Blansett Hall, October 17, 3:30 pm, Blansett Hall
- Colloquia Lecture Series, Natasha Trethewey, October 22, 6:00 pm, Jobe Auditorium
- Walt Bettinger Visit/Meeting with Cabinet, October 23/24
- Alumni Gala, November 6
- Homecoming, November 7

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, September 28, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Report on Grant Funding (Myrtis)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.