

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: June 8, 2015

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Wayne Blansett, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Mr. Steve McClellan, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jeff Slagell, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Dr. Myrtis Tabb, and Ms. Leigh Emerson

Members not in attendance: Dr. Debbie Heslep and Mr. Mikel Sykes

Guest: Dr. Emily Dabney, Director of Institutional Research

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on June 8, 2015. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. McAdams introduced Dr. Emily Dabney as the new Director of Institutional Research. They have two more positions in that office that will be filled as soon as possible.
- President LaForge announced we will reopen the search for the new Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment. The preferred candidate turned down the offer due to personal reasons. We will begin a targeted search. We are considering putting in place an Interim Vice President. In the meantime, Dr. Blansett will fill two positions in his area that will become vacant at the end of the month, Administrative Assistant and Director of Student Life.
- President LaForge asked Mrs. Emerson to give a Teach For America update. She stated the Cleveland community held a Delta Hospitality night for the Delta Corps members on Friday evening at the Warehouse. It was a very nice event and was well attended. The TFA Registration day was held on Sunday from 1:00-5:00 pm in Wyatt Gym, and we had approximately 450 corps members come through registration. We had a lot of DSU and Chamber volunteers, along with the Boy Scouts, to help them move in and welcome them to campus. Domino's also offered free pizza. Overall, it was a very successful event. We will host them on Friday evening for Catfish on the Quad. We will have catfish, games, and music from 6:00-9:00 pm.
- President LaForge attended the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi Board Meeting on Thursday. The meeting went well and they are still planning to open on November 14. The opening gala will be held in the BPAC. Also, they will have a Beatles Exhibit at the museum in February 2016.
- The commemorative dedication for Bond-Carpenter and Whittington-Williams Residence Halls was held on Thursday. The Bond family was very appreciative of what we had done.
- The BPAC held a reception on Thursday for their Season Announcement. Dr. Tabb stated it was a great event, but was poorly attended. She stated BPAC ticket sales and membership numbers have increased over the last several years, and they are excited about the new season.
- The Chamber of Commerce hosted "Old Fashioned Day" in downtown Cleveland on Saturday, and President LaForge, along with other community members, were arrested as part of their fundraiser. The Fighting Okra was downtown to post bail for the President and to market Delta State.

- President LaForge attended the Steve Azar Celebrity Dinner on Thursday, and Mr. Mayers and Mr. Fulcher participated in the “Delta Soul” Celebrity Golf event on Saturday. These events raise money for his foundation, The Steve Azar – St. Cecilia Foundation, and a portion of the money benefits our Delta Music Institute.
- President LaForge attended the Roseanne Cash Concert on Saturday at Dockery Farms. He said it was a great event, and there were approximately 600 people in attendance.
- President LaForge will attend a Legislative Review by Senator Buck Clarke, which is being hosted by the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce, on Tuesday.
- President LaForge and Mr. McClellan will host a “Thank You Lunch” on Thursday for our Facilities Management personnel for their hard work this year.
- President LaForge will attend the Alumni Board Meeting at noon on Friday.
- President LaForge asked Dr. Blansett to give an update on our first Freshman Orientation session, which will be held on Thursday beginning at 10:00 am. Dr. Blansett stated we have 250-275 students and their parents signed up for this session.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Slagell, seconded by Dr. Blansett, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on June 2, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

Course Cancellation/Purge Process.....Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan explained that the old process had several issues: 1) the purge process took place too late in the semester, 2) the schedule was undefined for when the process took place each semester, 3) the process and schedule were not communicated to the students, 4) the timing of the process made it disruptive to the faculty, and 5) we paid meal plan fees to Aramark for students who were purged. The goal is to improve the process and our results. He then discussed the dates for how the process will work (see enclosed). We will also communicate the plan to all students via orientation sessions, mailings to their homes this summer, text messages, web site, etc. The plan will be communicated via different sources and will be repetitive, and so students should be aware of the new process.

BUSINESS

Action

“Grades and Credits” Policy (final reading)Dr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams presented the revised “Grades and Credits” policy for a final reading. The changes to the policy include: adding a definition for our grading system, quality point, and grade point average; and, adding a sentence stating “various departments at Delta State University offer non-credit activities for the benefit of community members; non-credit activities are not eligible for academic credit.” By adding this sentence, the “Non-Credit Activities Policy” is no longer needed and should be deleted.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the “Grades and Credits” policy for final reading and seconded by Mr. Slagell. **The motion was approved.**

“Non-Credit Activities” Policy (final reading)Dr. McAdams

The action taken on the “Grades and Credits” policy deletes the “Non-Credit Activities” policy.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to delete the “Non-Credit Activities” policy and seconded by Mr. Slagell. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Budget Wrap-UpMr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan gave a presentation on the status of our FY15 and FY16 budgets. Our budgeted revenue and expenses for FY16 are \$46,103,508. This includes \$500,000 of contingency funds and is supported by \$189,365 of one time money.

UtilitiesMr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan discussed the increased costs of heating/cooling and utilities. A portion of the increase is due to bringing Cain-Tatum residence hall on line, but the majority of the increase is due to higher energy costs. We are implementing a plan to increase the temperature in buildings from 71 to 73 degrees to save money. We will monitor this for a few weeks, and see how the campus responds.

Opening Session Lunch for Faculty/Staff Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts asked Ms. Read and Dr. Fadiga-Stewart for feedback from Staff Council and Faculty Senate regarding the interest in our hosting a lunch for faculty and staff after the General Convocation. Ms. Read stated that Staff Council was in favor of having it, but said it could be scaled down. Dr. Fadiga-Stewart said she would request feedback from Faculty Senate members via email.

Cabinet Advance Dates Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts announced the proposed dates for the Cabinet Retreat are July 21-22. She asked Cabinet Members to let Ms. Emerson know if they had a conflict with those dates. It will be held close to town this year, and the theme will be “What will it take to get to the next level?” Other topics will include: partnership with GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, academic quality, and a new Capital Campaign.

Other Discussion

- Mr. McClellan announced that Delta State passed its annual water inspection.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- TFA Catfish on the Quad, June 12, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, Quadrangle
- Band Perry, June 29, 7:30 pm, McCool Stadium
- Cabinet Retreat, July 21-22
- Opening Session, August 14, 10:30 am, BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, June 15, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Title IX (Dr. Tabb)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.