

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: March 16, 2015

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Wayne Blansett, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Dr. David Hebert, Dr. Debbie Heslep, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Mr. Steve McClellan, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jeff Slagell, Mr. Mikel Sykes, Dr. Myrtis Tabb, and Ms. Leigh Emerson.

Absent: Dr. Charles McAdams

Guests: Mr. Lynn Buford, Chief of Police, and Mr. Mark Kimbell, Assistant Chief of Police

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

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge thanked Mr. Sykes for representing the SAE Chapter and Delta State so well on Anderson Cooper's segment on CNN, as well as a segment on NBC. Both video segments were shown to Cabinet members.
- President LaForge reported that he had lunch with several members of Raymond Huerta's family last week, and they discussed what they can do for Delta State and what we can do for them.
- President LaForge thanked Staff Council and the Alumni-Foundation office for their support of the "Snacks for Staff" event that was held during Spring Break week.
- President LaForge welcomed Ned Mitchell and Southgroup Insurance's Sales Development Committee to campus last week. Several people in the group were Delta State graduates, and they enjoyed their time back on campus.
- President LaForge attended the "IHL Day at the Capitol" event on Thursday. Delta State's student team presented their project of "MS Entrepreneurial Center for Creative Arts (MECCA)" for the Blueprint Mississippi Social Business Challenge. The students were also guests on President LaForge's Fireside Chat.
- Mr. Mayers discussed the great couple of weeks we have had in athletics. Our Lady Statesmen swimmers finished ninth overall in the country. That is the highest ranking they have ever achieved. The Statesmen were ranked 11th. Several individuals from Delta State broke national records. In basketball, Delta State's PJ Davis was named the Gulf South Conference Freshman of the Year. Devin Schmidt was named First Team All-GSC and was a finalist for the 2015 C Spire Howell Trophy, awarded annually to the best male college basketball player in Mississippi. Seneca Walton was named All-Gulf South Conference for the third consecutive season.
- President LaForge and Mr. Charlie McGuffie met with and offered their congratulations to Cecilia Becerril Nieves for receiving the inaugural Maria Butler Retention Scholarship.
- President LaForge plans to visit with the God's Anointed Voices group tonight during their regular weekly meeting.

- President LaForge has several meetings and events scheduled this week. He will meet with Phi Theta Kappa Students at Hinds Community College; have dinner with both House and Senate members in Jackson; attend the student lunch with legislators; attend the IHL Board Meeting; have lunch with Governor Phil Bryant, David Abney, and other business leaders at the Governor’s Mansion; attend the BPAC President’s Award dinner; participate in the St. Paddy’s Parade in Jackson on Saturday; and, speak at Kappa Sigma’s 40th Annual Founders Day program.

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 March 9, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

Cabinet Planning Guide..... Cabinet

Cabinet members reviewed and updated the Cabinet Planning Guide in the areas of (1) Finances, (2) Athletics, and (3) Employees.

Mr. McClellan discussed our financial situation, and distributed a report showing our position for this year. Mr. Mayers gave a presentation showing the areas where we have made improvements in Athletics this year, the plans for the future, and the increased level of sponsorships.

President LaForge discussed our employee pay raise situation and the efforts all of the Universities are making to persuade the Legislature to fund salary increases.

BUSINESS

Emergency Preparedness Plan Dr. Blansett/Chief Lynn Buford/Captain Mark Kimbell

Dr. Blansett introduced Chief Buford and Captain Kimbell. Chief Buford discussed the recent inclement weather (snow and ice) situations and the pre-planning that went into preparing for emergencies. They had good information and their actions were good. We could have done some things differently, but, overall, everything went well. Some areas we need to address are: (1) Health Service capabilities, (2) Emergency power sources, (3) Evacuation shelters, (4) Evacuation Routes, and (5) Communication needs. The need to work on the timing of the campus notifications via email and text message was discussed. They will continue training throughout the year to prepare for emergency responses.

Cabinet Award for Student Art Show Dr. Roberts

Cabinet members have made contributions for the last several years for the Student Art Award. The winning art piece(s) is displayed in the President’s Conference Room for one year. The Opening Reception for the Student Art Show will take place on Thursday, and the Art Department needs to know if we will sponsor the Cabinet Award again this year. Cabinet members agreed to continue to sponsor this award.

Discussion

- Dr. Tabb shared with Cabinet Members the tribute page, in memory of Dr. Henry Outlaw, that was in *The Bolivar Commercial* recently.

- Dr. Tabb distributed the registration mailers for the Winning the Race Conference. She has extra copies, and she asked everyone to send copies to their colleagues.
- Dr. Heslep said applications for Fall 2015 are down slightly for First Time Freshmen; however, Banner has been down for a few weeks. Hopefully, the numbers will go back up. The Transfer applications are up by 75. The number of “application fees paid” are good, and campus tours are up by 50.
- Dr. Heslep stated that “Junior Recruitment Day” will be held on March 28th as part of Go Green Weekend.
- Dr. Heslep announced that Jackson Preview Day is scheduled for April 7th at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, and we will have media/alumni visits in Jackson on April 2nd to promote the event.
- Mr. McClellan stated he has received a second request from the Cleveland Music Foundation (GRAMMY Museum Mississippi) to use 35 parking spaces, in the northeast corner of the Kent Wyatt Hall parking lot, for four months. They opted not to accept our initial proposal, which included a charge for the spaces, due to budget constraints. However, they desperately need the parking area because the excessive rain in recent weeks has made the construction site very muddy. They are asking Delta State to waive the fee. The parking spaces will be occupied with only the personal vehicles of their workers. Cabinet members agreed to allow them to use the spaces except during times when we have high traffic volume in that area, such as commencement, local high school graduations, etc.
 - * Dr. Blansett will provide to them the dates the parking spaces will be unavailable.
- Ms. Read asked Cabinet members to serve lunch to staff during the Staff Appreciation Day. Cabinet members agreed to do so.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Student Lunch with Legislators (Brown Bag), Wednesday, March 18th, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, State Capitol
- Go Green Weekend, March 27-28, Campus
- Race Conference, March 30-31
- International Business Symposium, April 1, 8:00 am, Baioni Conference Center
- Retirement and Service Award Program, April 24, 2:00 pm. Union 2nd Floor Lobby
- Staff Development Day, May 14, Jacob Conference Center/Walking Trail

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, March 23, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Cabinet Planning Guide: (1) Enrollment (Debbie), (2) Academics, (3) Private Support (Keith), (4) Campus, and (5) Region

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.