

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: August 10, 2015

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Libby Carlson, 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, Dr. Myrtis Tabb, and Ms. Leigh Emerson

Members not in attendance: Mr. Mikel Sykes

Guests: Ms. Jennifer Farish, Director, Communications and Marketing
Ms. Arlene Sanders, Chair, Diversity Committee
Members of the Course Cancellation/Purge Committee

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on August 10, 2015. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge asked Dr. Michelle Roberts to introduce Ms. Jennifer Farish, new Director of Communications and Marketing, to Cabinet members.
- President LaForge called on Mr. Steve McClellan to introduce and recognize his guests. Mr. McClellan recognized the following for their assistance with the new Course Cancellation/Purge process: Mr. Kelvin Davis (Student Business Services), Ms. Caitlyn Thompson and Ms. Laura Walker (Communications and Marketing), Ms. Christie Rocconi (Financial Assistance), and Mr. Edwin Craft (OIT). Mr. McClellan thanked the members for the time and effort they put into restructuring the process and following up with marketing it, making phone calls, and working extra-long hours to try and reduce the number of students who would be removed from the system due to non-payment.
- President LaForge attended the Jackson and Desoto County Alumni Meetings last week. There were good crowds at both. He also attended the DSU Family Roadshows in Clarksdale and Cleveland. The Clarksdale meeting wasn't well attended, but there were good people there. He asked Mr. Ronnie Mayers to discuss the Cleveland event. He stated there was a great group of alumni and community members in attendance, they were successful in raising money, and the event was a great success.
- President LaForge hosted the second annual Mayors' Summit last week. It had low attendance due to the conflict with the Primary Election, but there were key mayors in attendance from across the Delta. The Race Conference, our statement about the Mississippi flag, and other topics were discussed. We also invited the Mayors to several upcoming campus events.
- President LaForge announced the Bologna Performing Arts Center's Sculpture Garden received new sculptures from artists across the U.S. The sculptures stay on display for two years and then a new competition is held. The university owns 25 pieces and five new pieces will go in front of the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi.
- President LaForge discussed an issue we have with conferring degrees. We are the only public university in Mississippi that doesn't confer degrees in August. This prohibits some students from getting jobs because they have to wait until December to get their diploma. The issue will be taken to

Academic Council and then brought back to Cabinet for discussion.

- President LaForge discussed the new Faculty and Staff Orientation sessions that will be held this week, and he reminded everyone about the Chamber’s Welcome Back Reception on Thursday evening at the Warehouse.
- President LaForge also discussed the Convocation that will be held on Friday and the luncheon that will follow (thanks to the sponsorship of Mr. Charlie McGuffee and the Delta Regional Foundation).
- President LaForge asked Dr. Caston to discuss Student Move-In Day. Dr. Caston stated everyone is invited to come out and help the students move in. We will have drinks, pizza, snow cones, etc. and our faculty, staff, athletic teams, fraternities, and sororities will be on hand to help greet and move our students into the dorms. The offices in Kent Wyatt Hall and the Union will be open from 1:00-5:00 pm.
- President LaForge asked Dr. Heslep to discuss our enrollment update. She stated that because of the new course cancellation/purge process, we are down about 10% or 200 students, but hopefully those numbers will come back up as student re-register.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Heslep, seconded by Mr. Mayers, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on July 27, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

Diversity Committee Report Ms. Arlene Sanders

Ms. Sanders presented a summary of this year’s Diversity Committee activities. She discussed the film series, safe space training, lectures and discussions that were held, performances, conferences the committee helped with (Diversity and Race), the new Diversity Champion Award, and the marketing campaign that was promoted to campus. (See attached)

BUSINESS

Action

Distance Education Policy Revisions (Final Reading)Dr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams distributed the revised policy at the last Cabinet meeting for First Reading. He did not receive any changes from Cabinet members.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the revised Distance Education Policy and seconded by Dr. Heslep. **The motion was approved.**

Recommendation for Title IX Team..... Dr. Tabb

Dr. Tabb presented her suggestions for members of the Title IX Team. They include the Director of Human Resources, Investigator from DSU Police Department, and a representative from Student Affairs, Athletic Department, and Academics. She asked for each of those areas to submit their names to her this week, and she will report back to Cabinet.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Tabb to approve the proposed makeup of the Title IX Team and seconded by Mr. Mayers. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Green Out Day President LaForge

President LaForge met with the football team, and they suggested that everyone wear green for the first home football game. Mr. Mayers stated they already have a planned color scheme for each game, and they will advertise it so everyone will know which color to wear.

Report on Course Cancellation/Purge Process Mr. McClellan

Last year in October, we purged 486 students for non-payment. This year, in August, we purged 485 students. Of the 485, 207 have already re-registered, and hopefully the number will continue to rise.

DSU Statement on Retirees..... Dr. Tabb

Dr. Tabb distributed the statement we have for DSU retirees regarding their eligibility for retirement as well as a list of the benefits they receive. This practice has been in place for many years. After discussion about the benefits, Dr. Tabb was asked to form a task force to formalize the benefits. Members will include Mr. Mayers, Mr. McClellan, Ms. Read, Dr. Fadiga-Stewart, and Dr. Kent Wyatt.

Winter-Reed Partnership Awards Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts announced that Dr. Clyde Muse, DSU alumnus and President of Hinds Community College, will be honored at this year's Winter-Reed Partnership Awards ceremony on September 1st at Hinds Community College. We have purchased a sponsorship table and have eight seats to fill. She asked Cabinet Members to let Ms. Leigh Emerson know if they would like to attend.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Chamber Welcome Back Reception for Faculty/Staff, August 13, Warehouse Restaurant, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- Opening Session, August 14, 10:30 am, BPAC
- Student Move-In Day, August 16, front of Dining Hall, 1:00-5:00 p.m.
- The Legends, August 24, 7:00 p.m., BPAC
- Colloquia Lecture Series, Joe Turner, September 1, 6:00 pm, Jobe Auditorium
- DSU's 90th Birthday Celebration, September 15
- Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy, September 15
- Colloquia Lecture Series, Natasha Trethewey, October 22, 6:00 pm, Jobe Auditorium
- GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, Grand Opening, November 14

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, August 17, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic –Update on Campus Projects (Steve)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.