

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: June 13, 2016

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. E.E. Caston, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge
(Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Libby Carlson and Mr. Mikel Sykes

Guests: Ms. Julie Jackson, Title IX Coordinator
Dr. Chris Jurgenson, President, Faculty Senate
Ms. Allie Rose Parker, President, Student Government Association
Ms. Christie Rocconi, Chair Elect, Administrative Staff Council

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on June 13, 2016. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Mayers, seconded by Dr. McAdams, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on June 6, 2016.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge informed Cabinet Members of the services for Coach William Marchant. Visitation begins at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 15 in the BPAC lobby and the Memorial Service begins at 11:00 a.m. in the Delta and Pine Land Theater. President LaForge stated he and Mr. Mayers had a good visit with Coach Marchant the day before he passed away.
- President LaForge welcomed TFA Delta Corps members to campus last Tuesday at their Mix and Mingle event at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi.
- President LaForge was given a tour of the Annual Senior Thesis Art Exhibition by Mr. Ron Koehler.
- Last week, President LaForge conducted a conference call with Gulf South Conference officials and administration from Auburn University at Montgomery regarding their interest in joining the Conference. President LaForge said there are now fourteen schools in the Conference.
- President LaForge attended Mr. Steve Azar's fifth annual Delta Soul Celebrity Golf and Charity Event dinner and auction for the St. Cecilia Foundation This foundation has supported the DMI in the past. President LaForge stated Delta State was represented in the golf tournament by Mr. Mayers, Mr. Fulcher, Mr. Charlie McGuffee, and Mr. Richard Tremmel.
- President and Mrs. LaForge attended the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters (MIAL) Awards Banquet on Saturday. During the event, Mrs. LaForge was elected vice president. President LaForge stated Delta State will host the MIAL Awards Banquet in June, 2017.
- President LaForge thanked Cabinet Members for helping to welcome Teach For America members to

campus on Sunday during Registration Day.

- President LaForge mentioned some of the events for the week. Mr. Fulcher set up two donor visits for President LaForge this week. First, on Monday evening, President and Mrs. LaForge will have dinner with Jim and Donna Barksdale, Mike and Nan Sanders, Ambassador John Palmer and Carol Puckett, and the co-editors of *Mississippi Today*, Fred Anklam and Dennis Moore. During the dinner, President LaForge will discuss his vision for the University. Second, on Tuesday, President LaForge will speak to the Gertrude Ford Foundation Board of Directors about his vision for the University and how the funds from their donations are being used. President LaForge will travel to Jackson on Wednesday for the IHL Board meeting. He will introduce Dr. Vernell Bennett to the Board and will also recognize and thank Dr. Caston for his dedication and service. President LaForge invited all Cabinet Members to attend TFA’s Catfish on the Quad event on Friday.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

New policies – “Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking;” “Missing Student Notification;” and, “Timely Warning” (first reading).....Dr. Caston

Dr. Caston introduced Ms. Julie Jackson, and asked that she review the new policies with Cabinet Members. The three policies were created out of the need to finish the Annual Security Report for the Department of Education, and to be in compliance with the Clery Act. Ms. Jackson explained the “Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking” policy would overlap with the Title IX policy, but the cases would be treated separately. Dr. Roberts asked Ms. Jackson to include “employees” in the policy statement for the “Sexual Assault” policy. President LaForge asked Cabinet Members to review the policies and communicate any questions or concerns to Ms. Jackson before they are brought to Cabinet for a final reading.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Caston to approve for first reading the three new policies—“Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking;” “Missing Student Notification;” and, “Timely Warning”—as presented and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Convocation Luncheon President LaForge

President LaForge informed Cabinet Members that a Convocation luncheon for faculty and staff will be held again this year. After the favorable response of the luncheon’s return last year, President LaForge reached out to Mr. Charlie McGuffee to see if he would be willing to underwrite the luncheon again this year, and he graciously agreed. President LaForge believes the luncheon is great for employee morale, and is a great way to begin the academic year.

TFA Delta Institute..... Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts explained that Teach For America’s organizational structure entails both national and regional teams, and that Delta State works with both groups during the year. The regional group maintains office space in Bailey Hall, and provides training on Delta State’s campus throughout the year for their corps members and staff. The national group utilizes Delta State as one of their six

summer training institutes, and we recently signed a three-year contract with them to continue serving as a national institute through Summer 2018. However, last week, Ms. Barbara Logan-Smith, Executive Director of TFA’s Mississippi region, informed President LaForge that national groups is closing their summer training institute at Delta State. Dr. Roberts met with representatives from TFA’s regional and national teams to inquire about this information. The Mississippi region has expressed their interest in continuing to train their corps members at Delta State, and they are exploring several options: 1) training just the Mississippi corps members at Delta State, 2) developing a consortium of rural regions to train all of their corps members at Delta State, 3) petitioning the national organization to continue the summer institute at Delta State for one more year while the region makes the transition, or 4) training their corps members at one of the other national summer institutes (such as Houston or Atlanta). President LaForge said he would like to continue to offer to TFA the graduate credit hours they receive from Delta State as part of their summer training program. President LaForge will meet with Ms. Logan-Smith and one of the Vice Presidents for the national organization, LaNiesha Cobb-Sanders, on Wednesday to discuss our options.

Possible Tuition Increase for 2017-18..... President LaForge

President LaForge asked Dr. McAdams to explain to Cabinet Members the suggestion for revising our three-year tuition plan, which currently includes increasing tuition 5% for 2016-17, 0% for 2017-18, and 5% for 2018-19. Dr. McAdams reminded Cabinet members of the plan for pay raises that President LaForge mentioned during his State of the University address last August. During his remarks, President LaForge said we needed two things in order to give pay raises for a second year: (1) an increase in state funds, and (2) an increase in tuition. Due to the decline in state revenue, and the resulting statewide budget cuts, we do not have enough money to give significant pay raises to all employees for FY17. In an effort to address the pay raise issue for the FY18 year, Dr. McAdams suggested altering our three-year plan for tuition increases by switching the last two years, which would result in a 5% increase for 2017-18, and 0% for 2018-19. The goal would be to allocate the additional revenue from the tuition increase for pay raises, dependent upon the state’s budget situation. President LaForge asked Ms. Parker to share her thoughts on the possible affect this tuition increase would have on our students. Ms. Parker said the tuition increase will be an issue for some students, but she believes it will be better to have the two years of increases together in order to get them out of the way. President LaForge said this topic will be brought back to Cabinet for further discussion and a vote.

Pivot Program Update Dr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams explained that a small amount of money can help students stay in school. The Pivot Program utilizes this philosophy by providing funds, up to \$1,000, to students in exchange for volunteer services in the Student Success Center. Using private dollars, this program has helped 14 students stay in school to complete their coursework. Dr. McAdams distributed a report from the Student Success Center that showcases the need for this assistance and the appreciation of our students.

Other Discussion

- Dr. Roberts reminded Cabinet Members of the “Catfish on the Quad” event on Friday evening from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. She asked that everyone come out to welcome our guests, and to contact Ms. Leigh Emerson if interested in volunteering at the event.
- Dr. Roberts informed Cabinet Members the first Cabinet Meeting in July will be held on Tuesday, July 5.
- President LaForge asked Ms. Parker to give an update on Ms. Anna Claire Stokes, the student injured in

a car wreck last semester. Ms. Parker stated Ms. Stokes is coming home in a couple of weeks and will begin a new therapy program in Memphis. Her fiancé, Mr. Jimbo Waldrop, received a teaching position in Desoto County, and they found a handicap accessible home in Desoto County. Ms. Stokes is working on her last two classes at Delta State, and hopes to finish by the end of the summer.

- President LaForge announced the annual Cabinet Advance will be held at the Jacks' Barnhouse again this year.
- President LaForge extended his appreciation to Dr. Caston on his outstanding service to Delta State during his time as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs. Dr. Caston stated he had a great year. The year had its ups and downs, but he said it is heartwarming to see everyone rally together to keep Delta State the same great place it was when he left several years ago.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Mayors' Summit, June 23, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House
- Transfer Orientation III, June 23
- Freshmen Orientation III, June 27-28
- Cabinet Advance, July 19-20

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, June 20, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.