

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: May 2, 2016

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Libby Carlson, 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: Mr. Mikel Sykes

Guests: Dr. Debbie Heslep, Dean, Enrollment Management
Ms. Shelby Holcomb, Student Worker, President's Office
Dr. Chris Jurgenson, President, Faculty Senate
Ms. April Mondy, Administrative Secretary, VP University Relations
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 May 2, 2016. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Mayers, seconded by Mr. Rutledge, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on April 18, 2016.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge recognized and thanked Ms. Claire Cole, Ms. Shelby Holcomb, and Ms. April Mondy for their hard work in preparing for the IHL Board meeting, which was held on campus two weeks ago. He said the meeting was a success, and he expressed his gratitude to Cabinet Members who gave of their time to volunteer. President LaForge said he received several compliments regarding the hospitality of Delta State staff as well as the beautiful campus.
- President LaForge welcomed Dr. Chris Jurgenson, new President of Faculty Senate, and Ms. Christie Rocconi, Chair Elect of the Administrative Staff Council. Their term on Cabinet begins on July 1, but they have begun the transition process.
- President LaForge gave an update on the Vice President for Student Affairs search. The chosen candidate visited Cleveland and looked at houses on the market, but then declined the offer. President LaForge stated two additional candidates are being reviewed. He does not want to fill the position hurriedly, and it not be the right candidate.
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- President LaForge attended the BPAC performance, Sara Evans, and said it was a great concert.
- President LaForge and Dr. Roberts traveled to Washington, D.C. last week to visit with Mississippi's Congressional delegation. President LaForge stated they had the opportunity to meet with Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker and the staff of our four U.S. Representatives. President LaForge

explained to Cabinet Members that these meetings are important in continuing good relationships with our U.S. Congressional delegation.

- President LaForge attended Dr. Carlson’s Retirement Recognition ceremony. He stated it was a great event, and it is evident how much Dr. Carlson’s colleagues love and respect her.
- President LaForge welcomed Phi Theta Kappa students and their parents to Phi Theta Kappa Day last Friday. He stated Delta State is receiving a great group of students.
- President LaForge asked Mr. Mayers to give an update on Athletics. Mr. Mayers stated the Statesmen had a great previous week and weekend. The Athletic department hosted the Green and White Awards Banquet on Tuesday. Ms. Cassidy Tally and Mr. Ben Pickard won the Charles S. Kerg Senior Student-Athlete of the Year Award, and will be nominated for the GSC Top 10 award. The baseball team holds the second seed for the GSC tournament, and will play the University of Alabama-Huntsville in the first game. Mr. Mayers informed Cabinet Members of a possible early commencement ceremony for the three baseball players who are graduating since they will miss Commencement due to the GSC Tournament. His staff is working with the Registrar’s office to find a time that works best for the players, the Provost, and President LaForge.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the events for the week. President LaForge will give remarks, along with Dr. Caston, at the Student Government Association Inauguration event tonight. President LaForge stated he has decided to make the SGA President a voting member of Cabinet and will announce it tonight at the Inauguration. President LaForge is hosting a lunch for Cleveland Community members on Wednesday to seek their input on the vision of Delta State. Also on Wednesday, President LaForge and the Executive Committee will meet with Quentin Whitwell and his associates regarding a hotel proposal they brought to the President several months ago. President LaForge and Dr. McAdams are scheduled to meet with Ms. Shelia Grogan of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Foundation of Mississippi on Thursday to discuss the revamping of our Healthy Campus/Community Initiative. President LaForge will share with Foundation Board on Friday his initial thoughts on the vision of Delta State. President LaForge has a follow up meeting with Dr. William Bell on Friday to discuss his gift to support the Race Conference as well as other initiatives he would like to create. President LaForge reminded Cabinet Members of the Student Hall of Fame Banquet Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. and Commencement on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. The honorary degree recipient, Robert Santelli, will be honored with a social/dinner at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi on Friday evening beginning at 5:30 p.m. President LaForge invited all Cabinet Members to attend, and he asked them to join him for a luncheon after Commencement on Saturday at the Alumni-Foundation House.

CABINET TOPIC

NCAA Meeting Recap..... President LaForge

President LaForge gave an update on his time in Indianapolis at the NCAA Division II President’s Council meeting. President LaForge stated Division II is the perfect meld of athletics and academics and has a similar budget to that of Delta State. He shared several takeaways from the meeting. One item is the Anti-Discrimination Process for Championship bids. The NCAA Board of Governors adopted a new requirement for sites hosting or bidding on NCAA events, in all divisions, to demonstrate how they will provide an environment that is safe, healthy, and free of discrimination—plus one that safeguards the dignity of everyone involved in the event. President LaForge believes this is the result of new legislation passed in several states. Also, the NCAA has started an advocacy campaign to help promote cultural diversity, gender equity, and inclusion with a focus and emphasis on hiring practices in intercollegiate athletics to reflect a growing diverse population. A pledge will be sent to each institution for the president and/or chancellor to sign. Another agenda item President LaForge shared is that of a motion to change the makeup of the Board of Governors. Currently, the Board of Governors

is comprised of twelve presidents from Division I, two presidents from Division II, and two presidents from Division III. It is proposed to add two more presidents from both the Division II and Division III sectors, which will give those divisions a stronger voice on the Board.

BUSINESS

Action

Summer Office Hours..... Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge brought before the Cabinet the proposed summer office hours. In the past, summer hours have been 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. with offices having the option of adhering to these hours or choosing to open from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Employees were given the option to arrive at work at 7:30 a.m. or 8:00 a.m., and would take either a one hour lunch or a thirty-minute lunch, depending upon their arrival. Cabinet members discussed the various issued causes by the inconsistency of office hours across campus, such as some offices not being balanced and staffed properly and some staff not working the full 40 hours per week. Ms. Read stated that staff enjoy getting off of work thirty minutes earlier in the summer in order to run errands. She also stated the summer hours are good for staff morale. Dr. Roberts suggested making summer office hours a set time, and letting employees who have issues with the earlier start time work out the situation with their supervisor.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve summer office hours as 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with the lunch hour from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., beginning Monday, May 9 and ending Friday, August 5 and seconded by Dr. Roberts. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Budget Update Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet Members that Delta State will receive a cumulative \$1.3 million cut in state appropriations. This cut combines the two budget cuts Governor Bryant made—in January and April— which were due to a lack of revenue in the state, plus a cut to our FY17 budget of \$724,870. Mr. Rutledge explained that Delta State is able to sustain this large cut—without having to cut programs or people—due to our smart budgeting practices over the past couple of years, doing a better job of collecting on bad debts , the new purge process, and increased tuition rates. Even though the University will not see any new money from the State, the Executive Committee is working to find ways to reallocate money within the budget to help fund different projects. Once they have completed their suggested list of reallocations, Mr. Rutledge will bring the list to Cabinet for review. President LaForge reiterated the information from his Campus Update stating “departmental budgets and positions will not be cut.” He said he wished he could fulfill his goal of a second round of pay raises, but it cannot be accomplished without money from State appropriations. President LaForge stated Mr. Rutledge is also working to find a way to complete our top three building projects—Zeigel Hall, the Cafeteria, and the President’s home—with the money the University received in the Bond bill.

Enrollment UpdateDr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams welcomed Dr. Debbie Heslep to Cabinet to give an update on the enrollment figures. Dr. Heslep said she is very pleased with the current figures. Both the application fees and number of “provisional admits” for first time freshmen are up from last year. The number of transfer students for community colleges and senior colleges is down slightly, but more transfer students have registered for their fall classes than in the past. Dr. Heslep stated that financial aid applications and scholarship applications have seen an increase, as well. Overall, Dr. Heslep feels good about the numbers and

believes we will see an increase in enrollment for the 2016-17 academic year.

Other Discussion

- Dr. McAdams gave an update on the number of Spring Commencement graduates. He said 441 students have applied for graduation, and 349 students are planning to participate in Commencement on Saturday. Also, degrees will be conferred in August, and those students will be given the option to participate in the Fall Commencement.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on the progress of the paving project. He stated the areas that are left to be completed include: crosswalks, repaving of problem areas, fixing seams, and the painting of parking lines. The estimated date of completion is before June.
- President LaForge reminded Cabinet Members that the next Cabinet meeting is scheduled for May 23, due to his trip to Bulgaria.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Reception/Dinner for Honorary Degree Recipient, May 6, 5:30 pm, GRAMMY Museum Mississippi
- Student Hall of Fame Banquet, May 6, 7:30 pm, State Room, H.L. Nowell Union
- Spring Commencement, May 7, 10:00 a.m., Walter Sillers Coliseum
- Commencement Luncheon, May 7, 12:00 noon, Simmons Room, Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House
- Wayne Blansett Staff Development Day, May 12
- Freshmen Orientation Session I, May 26-27
- Memorial Day Holiday, May 30
- Transfer Orientation II, May 31

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, May 23, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.