

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: August 26, 2019

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Ms. Tricia Killebrew, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Beverly Moon, Mr. Rick Munroe, Mr. Cetin Oguz, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, and Ms. Elizabeth Swindle (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: None

Guests: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on August 26, 2019. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Ms. Swindle and seconded by Mr. Rutledge, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on August 19, 2019.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from the past week. Dr. Bennett shared highlights from Welcome Week and the Leadership Conference where 66 student organizations were represented. During Welcome Week, President LaForge hosted a successful ice cream social for new students, and he thanked those Cabinet members who assisted in serving ice cream. Last week, President LaForge visited with Delta State's oldest graduate Ms. Jutta Karnstedt Ferretti, and the Site Director for Baxter. Mr. Munroe informed Cabinet members Baxter has a new leadership team and they are very open to collaborating with Delta State and initiating internships for Delta State students. Human Resources hosted its Annual Benefits Fair, and the Alumni Association hosted an alumni gathering in Oxford, Ms. Mr. Munroe stated 30 alumni and family members attended the event, and they were pleased to be able to socialize with one another. An opening reception for the new Mathews-Sanders Sculpture Garden Exhibition occurred prior to the BPAC performance of Kansas. President LaForge stated both were great events.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Supplies and materials for the Walter Sillers Coliseum roofing project are being delivered, and the project will begin with asbestos removal prior to removing the old roof. Another meeting for the MDOT sidewalk project occurred last week, and the front entrance of the Union was discussed. Mr. Rutledge will include Dr. Bennett on any decisions regarding altering the front entrance. The notice to proceed for the roofing project transpires on September 1; however, the project will commence 30 to 45 days after the notice. Mr. Rutledge and Facilities Management staff are vetting architects for the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing addition. Facilities Management is creating a punch list for the Digital Media Arts building in order to finalize the project. The roofing project for Cain-Tatum Hall and the President's home will begin this week. The

new President's home project is scheduled to have concrete poured this week, a vendor for the Golf Course feasibility study will be chosen by September 3.

- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. Meet the Statesmen went well. The Department of Athletics will hold a student athlete orientation for all student athletes this week. All fall teams begin their seasons next week, and the Department of Athletics are working on reunions for Statesmen Baseball alumni, Statesmen Football alumni, and Lady Statesmen Basketball alumni. The reunions will take place on October 11 and 12 and November 9, respectively.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. President LaForge plans to have lunch with Dr. Paul Janoush on Tuesday to provide a campus update, and he and Mr. Munroe will travel to Memphis on Wednesday to meet with Mr. Charlie Pleas. The sixth annual Mayors' Summit is scheduled for Thursday at 1:30 p.m., and all Cabinet members are invited to attend. The next Cabinet meeting will be Tuesday, September 3 as Monday, September 2 is Labor Day.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Military Payment for Tuition and Fees policy (new – first reading) Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge presented to Cabinet members the Military Payment for Tuition and Fees policy for a first reading. This policy states Delta State will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the require that a student borrow additional funds because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the Institution due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under chapter 31 or 33.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the new Military Payment for Tuition and Fees policy for a first reading and seconded by Dr. McAdams. The motion was approved.

Discussion

Enrollment UpdateDr. Bennett

Dr. Bennett informed Cabinet members 767 (306 freshmen and 461 transfer) new students are enrolled, and the original goal was 600 new students. Final numbers will be known after no show reports are submitted the first week of September. All Dual Credit students should be entered by end of day Tuesday. Delta State's requirement for the math sub-score (20) hinders additional students entering the Dual Credit program.

Additional information

- Dr. Ronnie Mayers will be a host at the President's Reception prior to the Delta State vs. Tusculum University football game.
- Dr. Moon shared the need for a meeting to discuss a scholarship distribution formula for those scholarships available to graduate and undergraduate students. President LaForge recommended Dr. Moon, Dr. McAdams, Dr. Bennett, Mr. Rutledge, and Mr. Merritt Dain meet and bring a recommendation to Cabinet.

- Mr. Munroe announced he has offered the position for Radio Manager to a very qualified individual.
- Mr. Kinnison made a request to Dr. Bennett and Ms. Swindle to advise him of any potential opportunities for him to speak to student groups about supporting the athletic teams and attending athletic events.
- Mr. Oguz and Ms. Killebrew have worked with Mr. Barkley Faulkner on ways to increase faculty and staff participation at athletic events.
- Ms. Swindle announced SGA will meet for the first time this semester tomorrow.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Mayors' Summit, August 29, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Simmons Room
- Labor Day Holiday, September 2
- Delta State football vs. Tusculum University, September 5, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field. President's Reception at 5:30 p.m., Dorgan Center.
- Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, September 5, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Tuesday, September 3 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.