

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT'S CABINET
Minutes

Meeting date: December 4, 2017

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. George Beals, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Dr. Dave Breaux, Ms. Ashley Griffin, Mr. Patrick Hundley, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, and Ms. Caitlyn Thompson (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: Mr. Ronnie Mayers

Guests: Dr. Kent Wyatt, President Emeritus

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on December 4, 2017. The meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rutledge, seconded by Dr. Beals, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on November 13, 2017.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge offered his condolences to the family of Ms. Leigh Ann Marquis, a member of the Delta State family. Cabinet Members remembered her in a moment of silence.
- President LaForge congratulated Mr. Jamie Rutledge on being appointed to IHL's Audit Committee.
- President LaForge and Ms. Heather Miller attended the Hearin Foundation's Beneficiaries meeting a few weeks ago. President LaForge informed Cabinet Members Delta State would work on a few proposals to send to the Foundation. The Hearin Foundation shared their appreciation for the work Delta State does with the grants bestowed to the university.
- President LaForge attended the Greenville-Washington County Alumni event. He stated it was a nice event and well attended.
- President LaForge and several members of the Executive Committee attended the IHL Board meeting and respective constituency group meetings. President LaForge briefed Cabinet Members on his discussions during the IEO meeting. The state of Mississippi received a \$3.5 million grant from the Kellogg Foundation for the Compete 2 Complete initiative. Students enrolled in the initiative receive \$500 to help with costs associated with classes. Universities are not allowed to waive prior debt of students, but universities are allowed to set up payment plans. President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members students population statistics. Only one third of the student population is traditional age students (18-21 year old). Forty percent are part time students. Fifty percent are financially independent. Commissioner Boyce continues to make his rounds around the state to meet with university presidents and local legislators to discuss the upcoming budget cycle and the need for higher education. IHL has begun releasing Op Ed pieces to educate the media and government officials on the need for higher education, as well. A big issue discussed is the teacher shortage in public schools

around the state. President LaForge was able to inform the other university presidents of our College of Education and Human Sciences efforts to combat this shortage. The State Superintendent reports a shortage of 1,100 teachers. Commissioner Boyce and the university presidents support an appropriations request of restoring the last two years' cuts as well as a two-year bond bill. Mission IT remains a big topic of discussion and has major support. It is not known if the project will be supported by tax credit or bond money. President LaForge stated the funding for Ayers for HBCUs has decreased and could result in a drastic drop in the budgets for these universities. President LaForge informed Cabinet Members that the social issues of sexual assault, weapons, and the state flag will be big discussion items in the upcoming legislative session. President LaForge would like for Title IX to be adopted with regards to sexual assault. President LaForge stated the Board of Trustees approved Delta State's affiliation agreement with the DSU Foundation. During the Board meeting, Delta State also received approval for conferring of degrees, operating agreement with TouchNet Systems, approval of the Vice President for University Advancement and External Relations position, and approval to bestow two honorary degrees.

- President LaForge had a meeting with Ms. Meredith Creekmore a few weeks ago while she was on campus. Her family operates C Spire.
- President LaForge attended the annual College of Business and Aviation Scholarship and Recognition Banquet. He stated it was a great event and several donors were in attendance to present awards and scholarships.
- President LaForge met with Dr. Fred Carl and Mayor Billy Nowell over the last few weeks to update them on the Capital Campaign.
- President LaForge continued his department visits with the Child Development Center and the Center for Entrepreneurship in Business Technology. He stated both were great visits.
- President LaForge met with Ms. Emily Havens and Ms. Becky Nowell to discuss a potential student membership for GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi. The student membership would cost \$25 and include a discount at the merchandise store and other amenities.
- President LaForge hosted his fourth Faculty and Staff lunch. He said he continues to enjoy his time meeting new faculty and staff members.
- President LaForge traveled to Greenville for recruiting purposes. He visited with St. Joseph High School and Washington School.
- President LaForge welcomed attendees of the first training session of the Local Government Leadership Institute. He stated 11 mayors were in attendance. The institute will have a big roll out announcement in January.
- President LaForge thanked all involved with the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. He thanked Staff Council for helping decorate the top of the tree, Facilities Management for putting up the tree, and Mrs. Ann Giger for coordinating the event.
- President and Mrs. LaForge attended the BPAC performance of Rhythmic Circus. He stated it was a great performance, and his guests enjoyed it.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on facilities. All projects are on schedule. The curbs have been poured for Statesmen Boulevard and asphalt should be poured this week. The medians are ready and landscaping will begin soon. Zeigel Hall looks very good. The electrical and plumbing work should be finished before Christmas. The Cafeteria project is on schedule and the interior walls have been demolished.
- President LaForge gave an overview of this week's events. He traveled to Madison this morning to recruit at St. Andrew's Episcopal School. Dr. Beal stated that Dr. Stephanie Bell, Assistant Professor of Counselor Education graduated from St. Andrews. President LaForge continues his department visits with Facilities Management and Accounting, Payroll, and Procurement on Tuesday. University Advancement's annual Retiree Christmas Party is on Tuesday. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce's Open House is Tuesday evening. President LaForge will host his fifth faculty and staff

luncheon on Wednesday. On Thursday, President LaForge travels to Madison to recruit at Madison-Ridgeland Academy. The South Delta Alumni event is Thursday evening. Mr. Hundley expects a decent crowd and a fun event. President LaForge will perform with Ol' Skool Revue at the DMI's Graduation Jam at Hey Joe's on Friday evening.

- President LaForge asked Dr. McAdams to discuss the commencement ceremonies on Saturday. Dr. McAdams stated the first commencement ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. The first ceremony will be for graduates and baccalaureate nursing students. The 2:00 p.m. ceremony will be for the remaining baccalaureate students. Dr. McAdams stated 386 students applied for graduation and 309 will walk.
- Dr. Roberts reminded Cabinet Members of the commencement dinner honoring our honorary doctorate recipient, The Honorable Percy Malone, on Friday evening in the Kent Wyatt Hall atrium. The reception will begin at 6:00 p.m., with entertainment by two Delta Music Institute students. The dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. Two students from the Music Department will provide background music during the dinner.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Facility Reservation and Rental Policy revisionMr. Mayers

Mr. Rutledge, in the absence of Mr. Mayers, brought to Cabinet a proposed revision to the Facility Reservation and Rental Policy. Athletics would like to add the Dorgan Center to the policy as a rental space for \$150 for two hours. The rental price does not include set up fees. Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet Members the free weights would be stored in a safe space.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to revise the Facility Reservation and Rental Policy to include the Dorgan Center as a rental space for the cost of \$150 for two hours and seconded by Mr. Hundley. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

VP University Advancement and External Relations Search President LaForge

President LaForge informed Cabinet Members the Vice President for University Advancement and External Relations position was approved by the Board of Trustees at the November IHL Board meeting. President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members his selections for the search committee: Dr. Roberts, committee chair; Mr. Patrick Davis, president-elect, Alumni Association Board; Mr. Tim Harvey, president, Foundation Board; Ms. Vicki Jackson, faculty member; Mr. Tom Janoush, president-elect, Foundation Board; Mr. Eckward McKnight, faculty member and ex-officio member, Foundation Board; Mr. Rutledge; and, Ms. Lisa Giger, ex-officio member. Dr. Roberts shared with Cabinet Members the timeline for the search process. The position will be posted on Monday and will be advertised for two and half months. The first round of interviews will occur in March, and on-campus interviews for the finalists will occur in April. Dr. Roberts hopes to be in a position where President LaForge can hire someone in May, with the selected person starting the job in July.

Legislative Budget Committee Recommendation Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge brought to Cabinet IHL’s FY2019 Appropriations request. The Legislative Budget Committee’s recommended budget, which was recently distributed, would decrease Delta State’s budget by 1.3% or \$220,000. The new budget and bond bill will be considerations of the legislature in January. President LaForge would like all Cabinet Members to be well versed on IHL’s request so that they can share the information with their constituency groups.

Local Government Leadership Institute.....Dr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams provided Cabinet Members with a two page summary on the Local Government Leadership Institute (LGLI) prepared by Dr. Temika Simmons. Dr. McAdams shared three points from the summary. The first training workshop was hosted on November 30 and the next scheduled workshop takes place on December 21 to discuss the maintaining and securing of municipal records. The Stennis Institute at Mississippi State University assumes their role with the LGLI in January 2018 to provide support with trainings. President LaForge reminded Cabinet Members the LGLI was paid for by grants from the Hearin Foundation and the Casey Foundation, and the program was created to assist local municipalities. Mr. Hundley attended the November 30 training session and was pleased to see that the session provided attendees with substantial, useful information.

Capstone ExperienceDr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams reached out to Dr. Susan Lee, Associate Commissioner for Academic and Student Affairs, to ask for a survey of IHL universities who utilize a Capstone Experience for their undergraduate programs. Three IHL universities, not including Delta State, require a capstone experience for all undergraduate students. Delta State’s students are uniquely advantaged by attending Delta State because of our capstone experience and the emphasis placed on teaching.

Additional Information

- Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet Members Aramark plans to open Chick-fil-A on Saturdays, beginning in January. Also, Aramark plans to expand upon the Chick-fil-A concept by including an ice cream and milkshake service.
- Mr. Hundley announced that Delta State received a \$25,000 grant through American Airlines. The College of Business and Aviation will use the grant to help the Commercial Aviation program. Mr. Hundley will contact Ms. Heather Miller to inform her of the grant.
- Ms. Thompson stated Staff Council meets this week and will host the Staff Council Breakfast next week on December 14.
- Dr. Beals stated Faculty Senate meets this week.
- Dr. Beals announced that he will lead a Continuing Education session on De-stressing for the holidays.
- Dr. Breaux invited Cabinet Members and their staff members to attend a Holiday Luncheon hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences on Wednesday.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Fall Exams, December 4-8
- Dinner for Honorary Degree recipient, Percy Malone, Friday, December 8, 6:00 pm., Leroy Morganti Atrium, Kent Wyatt Hall
- Fall Commencement, December 9, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., BPAC
- Winter Holidays, Thursday, December 21, 2017 through Monday, January 1, 2018
- Classes begin Monday, January 8, 2018

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, December 11
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.