

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: February 11, 2019**

**Members in attendance:** President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Dr. Severine Groh  
Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Billy Moore, Mr. Rick Munroe,  
Dr. Christy Riddle, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Charlie King and Mr. Jamie  
Rutledge (recorder – Ms. Shelby Holcomb)

**Members not in attendance:** None

**Guests:** Mrs. Abbey Atwill, Campaign and Research Coordinator, University  
Advancement  
Mr. Keith Fulcher, Special Assistant to the President for Donor Relations

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on February 11, 2019. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Rutledge and seconded by Mr. Munroe, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on February 4, 2019.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge informed Cabinet members of the passing of Mrs. Liz Parker, who was married to the late Mr. Travis Parker, former IHL Board member and namesake of the Delta State football field.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. He and Mr. Munroe had a meeting/conference call with members of the Campaign Strategy Study Committee. Mr. Munroe said the next step will be to create a Campaign Steering Committee. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Young-Mauldin Cafeteria was held last Tuesday. Mr. Rutledge stated approximately 75 people attended, including approximately 50 students. Mr. Munroe attended the South-Central Alumni Meeting in Brookhaven. The meeting had a good turnout. The BPAC performance of the Kinky Boots musical occurred last week, and the estimated attendance was 900. Statesman Scholarship Day was held last Friday. Dr. Bennett informed Cabinet Members that 48 students participated in scholarship interviews. The scholarship winners will be notified by mail this week. President LaForge attended GRAMMY Week in Los Angeles last week. While there, he attended Ms. Tricia Walker's educational program at the Clive Davis Theater as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Mississippi Night where the DMI All Stars performed. President LaForge also filmed a special edition of his Fireside Chat with two members of the DMI All Stars regarding their experience in L.A, and it will air on Wednesday.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. He thanked Rebekah and Miller Arant for their donation to renovate the film room. Women's basketball went 2-0 and men's basketball went 1-1 against Auburn University at Montgomery and Christian Brothers University. Softball wrapped up their time at the University of Alabama Huntsville Charger Chillout Invitational with four wins and two losses. The Delta

State University baseball team defeated Southern Arkansas and Henderson State. The baseball team's game against Ouachita Baptist University on Sunday at 1 p.m. was postponed due to inclement weather. Tennis begins tomorrow against Alcorn State University and against Shorter University on Friday.

- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on facilities projects. The Walter Sillers Coliseum project needs approval from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. They will conduct a core sample to check for asbestos. The roofing project will be advertised on February 27. Beginning Wednesday, Facilities Management will replace lights in the east stairwell in Kent Wyatt Hall. The work will begin at 5:00 p.m. and will continue through Friday.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. This morning, President LaForge met with Erasmus Scholar Dr. Urszula Niewiadomska-Flis, a Professor of English Studies at KUL in Poland. He also met with Miss Delta State University Chesney Mardis regarding her platform, as well as sponsorship opportunities. President LaForge will host a Faculty and Staff Luncheon on Tuesday. President LaForge will meet with Mr. Tom Janoush on Tuesday to discuss potential gifts for the Capital Campaign. The SGA's Student Lunch with Legislators will take place on Wednesday at the Capitol. On Thursday, President LaForge will participate in a conference call with the NCAA's Ad Hoc Committee on Sports Wagering. The Big Band Bash, which supports the DSU Jazz Ensemble, will take place on Friday evening at the Cleveland Country Club.

## **CABINET TOPIC**

### **Capital Campaign's new Moves Management process.....Mr. Munroe**

Mr. Munroe introduced Ms. Atwill and Mr. Fulcher, and welcomed them to Cabinet. He introduced Moves Management as their new plan for fundraising. Moves Management helps track all communication between prospects and contacts. Mr. Munroe explained to Cabinet Members that each prospect is assigned a specific contact who is responsible for meeting and speaking with that prospect. Ms. Atwill presented a report to Cabinet Members regarding their meeting schedule, assignments, contact reports, plans to upgrade their software to the Blackbaud system, and the "range of gifts" table. (see presentation).

## **BUSINESS**

### **Action**

#### **Authorization for Campus Sidewalks project..... Mr. Rutledge**

Mr. Rutledge announced Delta State has been approved for funding up to \$415,125.00 through the Federal Transportation Alternative (TA) Program Fund for our sidewalks project. Cabinet approval is needed to authorize President LaForge to request activation of the project.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Rutledge to authorize President LaForge to request activation of the Campus Sidewalks project and seconded by Dr. Moore. The motion was approved.

#### **Naming of Campus Facilities policy (revised – first reading)..... Mr. Rutledge**

Mr. Rutledge brought to Cabinet the revised Naming of Campus Facilities policy for a first reading. The changes outline the reasons and process for removing a name from any facility or program. The University reserves the right to revoke and terminate its obligations regarding a naming, with no financial responsibility for returning any received contributions to the benefactor. These actions, and the circumstances that prompt them, may apply to an approved naming that has not yet been acted upon or to a conferred naming. Circumstances leading to the removal of a name include but are not limited to: the

commission of and conviction for a crime by an individual whose name appears on a naming opportunity; the failure of a donor to fulfill gift commitments as specified in a stated agreement; and, the benefactor's or honoree's reputation changes substantially so that the continued use of that name may compromise the public trust, dishonor the University's standards, or otherwise be contrary to the best interests of the University.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the revised Naming of Campus Facilities policy for a first reading and seconded by Mr. King. The motion was approved.

**Union Space Reconsideration request.....Dr. Bennett**

Dr. Bennett brought to Cabinet for review her proposal for Union Space Reconsideration. She reminded Cabinet Members that during the Cabinet Advance meeting last summer, the Cabinet agreed to move the Student Success Center from the Nowell Union to Bailey Hall in order to give the students more space in the Union. Dr. Bennett said that additional meeting space is needed for students, and so she requested that the International Student Services offices also be moved to Bailey Hall. Dr. Riddle presented a proposal to keep the International Student Services offices in the Nowell Union. She stated that by having International Student Services remain in the Union, it showcases Delta State University's commitment to international student development and for the international students to be felt valued campus. President LaForge proposed renovating Union 306a and 306b for student meeting rooms.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Bennett to reconsider the Union Space Reconsideration request and seconded by Mr. Kinnison.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Rutledge to postpone the discussion regarding the Union Space Reconsideration request to a future meeting so additional information can be obtained and seconded by Dr. Moore. The motion was approved.

**Discussion**

**Art Awards ..... Dr. Roberts**

The Art Department has begun collecting funds for their annual art awards for students. The Cabinet award is a \$500 cash award that goes to the student with the second-best piece in the student art show. The top prize is the President's Award, which is a \$1,000 cash award. Dr. Roberts asked Cabinet members to consider donating for the Cabinet award. Mrs. Claire Cole will send to Cabinet Members an email with the link for donations. Also, Cabinet Members may give their donation to Mrs. Cole. The donations are due next Friday, February 22.

**United Way Recognition Reception ..... Dr. Roberts**

Delta State University has been named one of the Top Ten Contributors for the United Way of Cleveland-Bolivar County's campaign. The recognition reception will take place on Thursday, February 21 at 5:30 p.m. at the Cleveland Country Club. Dr. Roberts asked for a member of Cabinet to attend event and accept the award on Delta State's behalf. Mr. Rutledge volunteered to attend.

**Additional information**

- President LaForge asked Cabinet members to share personnel updates in their areas. Dr. Bennett informed the Cabinet that Mr. Jim Miller, Director of Career Services, has resigned and will work for the Mississippi Community College Board. Mr. Munroe announced Ms. Abbey Atwill is moving to Memphis.

- Mr. Munroe informed Cabinet Members of the three projects that were selected for the “Spring to Success Online Giving Day”: 1) police bulletproof vests, 2) a new mascot (Statesmen) outfit, and a dementia project. They received 21 applications.
- Mr. King announced that 41 students plan to attend SGA’s Student Lunch with Legislators on Wednesday.
- Mr. Kinnison announced that the naming ceremony for the Aquatics Center will take place on April 13 at 10:00 a.m.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- SGA’s Student Lunch with Legislators, February 13, 11:30 a.m., Jackson, MS
- Sarah McLachlan concert, February 19, 8:00 p.m., BPAC
- Wizard of Oz performance, February 26, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Colloquia Lecture Series with Mr. Steve Forbes, March 4, 6:00 p.m., Jobe Hall

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, February 18, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – The impact of “The Changing College Business Model” on distance learning (Dr. McAdams)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.