

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: February 19, 2018

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

Members not in attendance: None

Guests: Ms. Emily Dabney, Registrar and Director, Institutional Research and Planning

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on February 19, 2018. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rutledge, seconded by Dr. Breaux, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on February 5, 2018.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge informed Cabinet Members of the passing of a Delta State student this morning, and he asked them to keep the family in their thoughts and prayers.
- President LaForge welcomed Mr. Hundley back to Cabinet.
- Dr. McAdams introduced Ms. Emily Dabney and announced she has assumed the role of Registrar in addition to her role as Director of Institutional Research and Planning. Dr. McAdams thanked Ms. Dabney for taking on additional duties. With her skill set, Ms. Dabney will be able to modernize the processes used in the Registrar's Office. Ms. Dabney stated she is very excited and honored to have the opportunity to make a difference for the university, and she asked for patience during this time of transition.
- President LaForge spoke with Dr. William Bell recently to give him an update on campus activities. Dr. Bell and his organization, Casey Family Programs, are very supportive of our Winning the Race Conference and Local Government Leadership Institute.
- President and Mrs. LaForge attended the BPAC performance of Hamlet a few weeks ago. He stated it was an interesting performance.
- President LaForge, Mr. Rutledge, and Dr. Bennett met with Mr. Charles Harris of Trinitas a couple of weeks ago to hear about university housing on other college campuses. President LaForge stated this was an excellent opportunity to hear new ideas as Delta State begins work on the campus master plan.
- President LaForge informed Cabinet Members a local pastor reached out to him recently to seek his advice on how to start a charter school. President LaForge referred the pastor to Dr. Leslie Griffin in the College of Education and Human Sciences.

- President LaForge attended the South Central Alumni Meeting two weeks ago. He stated it was an excellent meeting and had great attendance.
- President LaForge continued his campus outreach during the last couple of weeks with visits to the Wesley Foundation, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and Kappa Sigma Fraternity.
- President LaForge continued his Campaign updates last week with Mr. Jimmy Wilson and Mr. Charlie McGuffee.
- President LaForge attended the IHL Board meeting last week. The main topic of the Board meeting focused on the Diversity Educator program. The overall winner for the Diversity Educator program was Delta State’s own Ms. Michelle Johansen. President LaForge said Ms. Johansen makes Delta State very proud with all of her efforts in diversity.
- Dr. Roberts and Ms. Tara Mounger arranged for a dinner for President LaForge last week with three House of Representatives committee chairmen. The guests included Chairman John Read, Appropriations Committee; Chairman Jeff Smith, Ways and Means Committee; and, Chairman Richard Bennett, Education Committee. President LaForge stated the dinner went very well.
- Last Friday, the HOSA Northern District hosted their 18th annual leadership conference on Delta State’s campus. President LaForge welcomed the students to campus.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. Mr. Mayers stated Statesmen Athletics had a great weekend. The Cross Country team held a reunion on campus and invited team members from the 1960s to the present to campus. Delta State will host for the 17th year the NSISC Conference Swimming and Diving Championship, beginning on Wednesday. The men’s and women’s basketball teams compete against Mississippi College at home on Thursday evening and both will celebrate senior night. Mr. Mayers was pleased to announce both basketball teams made post-season playoffs. The baseball team’s first home games were moved to Quincy University in Illinois due to weather. The baseball team won all three of their games. The softball team continues to do well. The tennis teams are off to a great start as the men’s team is undefeated.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Mr. Rutledge reiterated the need for good, dry weather in order to finish the paving of Statesmen Boulevard. He will meet with the Bureau of Buildings next week to discuss furniture for Zeigel Hall. Landscaping for Caylor-White-Walters will start soon. In addition to landscaping, a few trees need to be removed from around Caylor-White-Walters as the roots are messing up the sewage pipes. Mr. Rutledge will bring this information to the Executive Committee.
- President LaForge met with Mayor and Mrs. Nowell this morning to give them an update on the Capital Campaign.
- President LaForge announced that Delta State was named a Top 10 Contributor for United Way of Cleveland. Their annual reception to honor their contributors is Tuesday evening, and Mr. Mayers will attend to represent Delta State.
- President LaForge gave an overview for the week ahead. President LaForge will continue his Greek organization visits this week with Kappa Alpha Order, Tri Delta Sorority, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. On Tuesday, President LaForge travels to Jackson for the HEADWAE Luncheon. Delta State’s honorees are Ms. Griffin and Ms. Emily Newman, instructor in Nursing. President LaForge travels to Greenwood on Wednesday for recruiting visits at Pillow Academy and Delta Streets Academy and to speak to the Greenwood Youth Leadership Seminar. On Friday, President LaForge will attend a meeting of the Major Foundations Task Force.

CABINET TOPIC

Visioning principles update..... Cabinet Members

Dr. Roberts presented to Cabinet Members the listing of goals for each of the Visioning Principles, which was

used during the 2017 Cabinet Advance. She explained some goals have been updated according to information shared following the Cabinet Advance recap in August 2017 and other goals have been added due to Cabinet Advance discussions. Dr. Roberts asked Cabinet Members to give an update on each of their goals or to note any changes. Cabinet Members gave an update on their respective goals for Visioning Principles one through three. Cabinet Members will discuss Visioning Principles four through ten at the next Cabinet meeting.
**See Visioning Principles 2017-18 document.*

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

Beverage Services Contract Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge gave an overview of how Delta State made the decision to select PepsiCo for its beverage services provider. In October 2007, Delta State entered into a ten year contract with Nehi Bottling Company with the contract ending in October 2017. Delta State enlisted the help of IHL to create an RFP for Beverage Services. The RFP was sent out in November and PepsiCo, Coke, and Nehi Bottling Company responded. Mr. Rutledge created a committee to evaluate the proposals, and they began their work in January. Mr. Rutledge stated the committee’s recommendation was to offer a contract to PepsiCo because of their brands, healthy lifestyle options, the promise of increased sales, partnership with Gatorade for Athletics, and overall better options for the campus. The IHL Board will vote on the beverage services contract in March. The changeover from Nehi Bottling Company to PepsiCo. will take place on April 1. President LaForge met with campus and community members prior to the announcement of the new contract to inform them of the decision.

Legislative Update Dr. Roberts

President LaForge informed Cabinet Members the main discussion the presidents had in their IEO meeting last week was on the impending gun legislation. The gun legislation passed in the House and has gone to the Senate. IHL’s appropriations strategy was to ask for restoration for the last two years’ worth of cuts. President LaForge stated it is a consensus of all the university presidents to give pay raises if the universities see an increase in appropriations. Ms. Griffin and her fellow student government presidents met with legislators last week. They discussed several things in her meetings: the state will continue its decision not to stack state funded scholarships; if the state created a lottery, the money would go to roads and bridges and not to education; taking remedial classes at the high school and community college levels and the chance it could hurt four year universities; and, gun legislation. Dr. Roberts informed Cabinet Members the bill to transfer the Coahoma County Higher Education Center to Coahoma Community College is still alive in both houses. Dr. Roberts announced SGA’s Student Legislative Day occurs on Thursday, and she believes there will be good attendance.

Additional information:

- Dr. Roberts gave Cabinet Members an update on potential flag legislation in the House and Senate. She stated there is not current legislation out there, but some legislators are threatening to add amendments to IHL bills that would requires universities to fly the state flag.
- During some of his Greek visits, President LaForge was advised by students that athletic coaches won’t

let their athletes affiliate with Greek organizations. President LaForge asked Mr. Mayers to address this with his coaches and to remind them it is a student's choice on how to manage their time. Also, he was informed that Intramurals no longer offers soccer as an intramural sport due to the lack of goals. President LaForge asked Mr. Mayers, Dr. Bennett, and Dr. McAdams to look into this to see how best to remedy the situation.

- President LaForge wants to enhance the partnership between Delta State and Mississippi Valley State University. To this end, President LaForge and Dr. Jerryl Briggs, President of MVSU, will swap places for a day.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Academic Day for Robert E. Smith School of Nursing, February 19
- Michael McDonald, February 22, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Academic Day for College of Education and Human Sciences, February 23
- RENT, March 1, 8:00 p.m., BPAC
- Colloquia Series with Mr. Fred Smith, CEO of FedEx, March 21, 6:00 p.m., Jobe Hall

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, February 26 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Visioning Principles update (Cabinet)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.