

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: June 25, 2018

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Dr. Severine Groh, Mr. Patrick Hundley, Mr. Charlie King, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Billy Moore, Dr. Christy Riddle, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on June 25, 2018. 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. Mayers, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on June 18, 2018.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge recognized Mr. Patrick Hundley and thanked him for his service to Delta State during the last year. Mr. Hundley stated it was a privilege to work at Delta State, and he appreciated the confidence placed in him as the Interim Executive Director of Alumni-Foundation. He enjoyed working with everyone on campus and extended thanks to the campus community for accepting him as a part of the Delta State family. He gave Cabinet Members a few parting thoughts: 1) student recruitment should be our top priority; 2) be advocates for our students and know our student population; 3) think creatively to see what programs could be added or expanded upon; and, 4) all departments should have a fundraising mindset.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the Local Government Leadership Institute press conference and the Mayors' Summit. He thanked Cabinet Members for their participation and attendance at both events. He stated both went very well. At the Mayors' Summit, the mayors had a great exchange on topics related to the Local Government Leadership Institute. President LaForge stated it is a great way to continue our community relations.
- President LaForge attended the IEO, Finance Committee, and IHL Board meetings last week. Several issues were addressed. With regards to SACSCOC accreditation, a requirement for Board performance evaluation has been left out of the Mississippi scheme for many years. The IHL Board will create a Board Performance policy. This new policy will also cover ways for the eight universities to evaluate themselves, and each university will have the opportunity to pick their evaluating methodology. Each university is highly advised to choose a methodology that reflects the best aspects of the university since different methodologies can influence how we are perceived in the long run. MISSION IT was not funded by the legislature, so IHL still needs money to fund the project and is looking into requesting a deficit appropriation from the Legislature. President LaForge stated the changeover from AT&T to

CSPIRE will occur in late July or early August with the research universities changing first. The Compete to Complete initiative is ready to contact its next installment of students by mail. This group will include more than 20,000 students. Dr. Boyce encouraged each university to focus on non-traditional students as they become an increasing percentage of the student population. A consultant has been hired to look into IHL's status with regards to university foundations. It is the feeling of the universities with larger foundation enterprises that IHL is clamping down too firmly. President LaForge stated gun legislation has become a hot topic again. Delta State's policy remains status quo with what the other university policies state. The IHL system wants to create a common policy to be shared by all eight universities in order to have a united front against possible challengers. Four of the eight universities gave pay raises for the upcoming fiscal year.

- President LaForge participated in a conference call last week to discuss the NCAA DII Grant program. President LaForge said he is pleased that the GSC is leading DII in using grants to help boost academics, and DII used the GSC as a model for the entire division.
- Mr. Hundley gave an update on Mississippi in the Park event. He stated the attendance was lower this year than it has been at past events, but the Delta State table had a good amount of people stop by.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. Athletics' hosted the Boys and Girls Summer Soccer Camp this week. The Mississippi Long Course Swimming Championship will be held on Delta State's campus July 19-23.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The second floor of Zeigel Hall is complete, and the first floor will be completed this week. The building should be turned over to Delta State completely the second week in July. Great progress has been made with regards to paving on Statesmen Boulevard. The sidewalks should be finished this week. Young-Mauldin Cafeteria will be ready the last week in August. Mr. Rutledge will take to the Executive Committee the dates for the changeover from the temporary cafeteria to Young-Mauldin Cafeteria.
- President LaForge had a stewardship visit with Mr. John Lewis of the Gertrude Ford Foundation prior to Cabinet today. He stated Mr. Lewis had a productive day of meetings on campus. He was able to meet with Dr. McAdams, Dr. Groh, and the Director of the Gertrude C. Ford Center for Teaching and Learning Dr. Gray Kane. Mr. Lewis was able to see the fruits of the Gertrude Ford Foundation's investment into our Center for Teaching and Learning.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the week. On Tuesday, he will meet with Mr. Neal Holcomb for a campaign update. On Wednesday, President LaForge will meet with Dr. Kent Wyatt for a campaign update. Delta State will host Orientation Session II on Thursday.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

President's Home..... Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge presented to Cabinet Members the plans for the new President's home. He gave an overview of the timeline for the project and the funding source behind the project. The new President's home will

combine an environment of a personal residence with the versatility of a public event space. The exterior of the home will mimic the Italianate architectural design found throughout the Delta State campus. The home will be built with future Delta State presidential families in mind. The cost of the home is estimated to be \$1.4 million. Delta State has decided to work with the DSU Foundation to get a loan through local banks in Cleveland, and Delta State will offset some of the costs the university charges to the Foundation for operations. Delta State will be able to do this because the debt for Blansett Hall will be paid off in December. By securing our own funding and not receiving State bonds, the Bureau of Buildings does not have to be involved, thus leading to a less expensive bottom line and a faster completion time. The project will be presented for approval at the August IHL Board meeting. Prior to approval, IHL Commissioner Glenn Boyce has to approve the ground lease to the DSU Foundation, which requires a letter of intent from the banks, the selection of a homebuilder, and an estimated cost of construction. Delta State has received a letter of intent from the banks to issue the loan for the project, and Collins Construction was chosen as the homebuilder due to their experience and knowledge of working with universities. Mr. Rutledge hopes to break ground on September 1.

Organizational Chart Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts presented to Cabinet Members the final draft of the organizational chart. The deadline for Cabinet members to submit changes to Ms. Cole is Thursday. The organizational chart for FY19 will become official on July 1.

Additional information:

- Dr. Bennett attended the Miss Mississippi Pageant last week to support Miss Delta State University, Ms. Gillian Oakley. Dr. Bennett stated Ms. Oakley did a wonderful job and represented Delta State well.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Orientation Session II, June 28
- Summer Session II, July 2 – August 2
- Fourth of July Holiday, July 4
- Cabinet Advance, July 10-11, Jacks Barnhouse
- Orientation Session III, July 16

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, July 2 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.