

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: November 4, 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, and Ms. Elizabeth Swindle (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Mr. Jamie Rutledge

Guests: Ms. Chrisa Mansell, Assistant 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 November 4, 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. Munroe, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on October 21, 2019.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from the past two weeks. President LaForge continued his visits to different campus constituencies last week including visits to the Cheerleading team, the Swimming and Diving team, the Softball team, the Bologna Performing Arts Center, and the Center for Economic Education and Research. President LaForge hosted his third Faculty and Staff Luncheon, and he met with National Alumni Association Board President Patrick Davis to discuss community activities. Dr. Bennett shared the sold out Empty Bowl fundraiser was a great success. The Desoto County Alumni meeting had a great turnout, and Mr. Munroe reported the Desoto County Alumni Chapter gave three scholarships to Desoto County students attending Delta State. The NCAA DII Presidents' Council met in Atlanta last week, and President LaForge shared the major topics discussed during the meetings. While in Atlanta, President LaForge had dinner with Dr. David Abney. President LaForge continued his recruiting visits with a visit to Cleveland Central High School to recruit their senior class. The Presidential Forums took place last week, and President LaForge thanked the constituency group leaders for their leadership and direction on their respective forums. President LaForge participated in a conference call with the GSC Executive Committee to discuss ineligibility issues within the conference. Dr. Temika Simmons met with President LaForge to provide an update on the Local Government Leadership Institute. GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi and the Red Carpet Guild hosted a Girls, Guitars, and Rocktail Bars Gala featuring Charley Pride over the weekend. The Foundation Board met on Saturday, and Mr. Munroe stated the main focus of the Foundation Board in the years ahead will be fundraising.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The men and women's soccer teams competed against University of Montevallo and Auburn University at Montgomery over the weekend, and the men went

0-2 and the women went 1-1. Both teams will compete again this week against University of West Florida and Spring Hill College. The women's team has a great chance for conference play. The cross country team finished last week. Basketball season opens this week. The men and women's team will compete in the GSC/SSC Crossover Tournament. The men's team will compete at the University of West Alabama and the women's team will host at Walter Sillers Coliseum. The football team defeated Shorter University over the weekend, and they will compete against University of West Georgia for Homecoming. The 2020 Athletics Hall of Fame class was announced today, and the induction ceremony will be in the spring.

- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. President LaForge will be the featured speaker during Northwest Mississippi Community College's Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony tonight. He will continue his visits to different campus constituency groups this week with a visit to the E-Learning Department, and he will host his fourth Faculty and Staff Luncheon this week. President LaForge and Dr. McAdams will meet with Dr. Otha Belcher to discuss partnership opportunities this week.
- Dr. Bennett, Ms. Swindle, and Mr. Munroe provided Cabinet members with an overview of Homecoming week activities including the Miss Delta State University Pageant, Aux Cord Wars, Homecoming Parade, Golden Circle Induction Ceremony at the Alumni Awards Gala, and a tailgate for alumni at Statesmen Park.

CABINET TOPIC

Education Achievement Council (EAC) Report CardDr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet the Education Achievement Council's Report Card for Delta State for 2017-18, and he asked Ms. Chrisa Mansell to provide an overview of the report card. The report cards show the progress that has been made toward educational goals for each university and community college. Each report card serves as an institutional profile, and provides a public record of an institution's enrollment, degrees awarded, college readiness, student progress, and research compared to the university system's averages. Ms. Mansell shared several areas of interest to Cabinet members. Delta State's total headcount enrollment for 2017-18 was 5,796 which includes enrollment for fall and spring. When reporting to IHL our enrollment figures, we report on fall numbers only. Our undergraduate enrollment in Education majors was 16.3% of all students which is higher than the university system average. Delta State's average number of degrees awarded in high-need disciplines such as Education and Nursing was higher than the university system average with 19.3% and 12.5% respectively. Also, Delta State had 138 students enrolled in more than one intermediate course.

BUSINESS

Action

Search and Hiring Requests..... Cabinet Members

In response to the Cabinet's decision that all requests to search for and fill vacant positions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Cabinet, Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet positions for consideration. The positions presented do not impact the salary savings identified previously to address the budget shortfall for this fiscal year.

Dr. McAdams shared 13 faculty positions are open currently whose salaries have been recaptured to address the budget shortfall. There is no intent or request to hire any of these positions during this fiscal year. A few positions being considered are currently filled positions with temporary hires or faculty who are retiring or resigning that will require a search. Today's requests are to conduct searches this academic

year with the intent for an August 2020 hire (FY21).

Academic Affairs Faculty Requests

College of Arts & Sciences

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet members the request to search for an Assistant Professor of Graphic Design, Assistant Professor of Photography, Instructor of Art, Delta Music Institute Director, Instructor of Mathematics, Assistant Professor of Biology, Assistant Professor of Geospatial Information Technology, and Assistant Professor of Social Justice and Criminology.

College of Business and Aviation

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet members the request to search for an Assistant Professor of Aviation and Coordinator of MCA Program and Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems.

College of Education and Human Sciences

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet members the request to search for and hire an Assistant Professor of Special Education. The position is currently filled, but the professor is leaving in December. Since the position is already filled, there is no impact on savings for the budget.

Robert E. Smith School of Nursing

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet members the request to search for three nursing faculty positions. Two of the positions are vacant, and one position will be available in December due to a retirement.

Roberts-LaForge Library

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet members the request to search for a Reference/Instructional Services Librarian.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the searching of faculty positions in FY20 and hiring in FY21 and seconded by Ms. Swindle. The motion was approved.

Academic Affairs Staff Requests

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet members the request to search for and hire an Articulation Specialist for the Registrar's Office, the Healing with a Groove 2.0 Project Assistant for Delta Music Institute, and a part-time clerical assistant to help prepare the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing's accreditation self-study report. The Healing with a Groove 2.0 Project Assistant will be grant funded, and the clerical assistant will be paid from a Delta State University Foundation account.

Also, Dr. McAdams asked permission to approve replacement hires for a few staff positions on an as needed basis and report the hires to Cabinet. These positions are: Flight Instructors (funded by student flight fees), Child Care Center staff (funded by user fees), and GIT Center temporary staff/student employees (grant/contracted funded).

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve staff positions and his ability to approve the hiring of flight instructors, Child Care Center staff, and GIT Center temporary staff and seconded by Mr. Munroe. The motion was approved.

In a spirit of transparency, Dr. McAdams reported to Cabinet three positions he approved prior to positions needing Cabinet approval and that were not a part of the recaptured salaries. Those positions

were the Administrative Secretary in the Division of Languages and Literature; an Enrollment and Administrative Assistant in the Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies and Research; and, a Part-time Library Assistant for the IRC in the Roberts-LaForge Library.

Discussion

Campus Forums..... Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts requested feedback from Cabinet members about last week’s campus forums. Ms. Swindle stated she received wonderful feedback from the student forum, and she felt all panel members were well prepared for questions. She suggested advertising specific topics and allowing a Student Life advisor sit on the panel for the next student forum. Ms. Swindle thanked Cabinet members for allowing changes to be made to the student forum and agreeing to a less formal setting. Ms. Killebrew shared she received good feedback; however, one staff member felt one question was not answered. Ms. Killebrew will get with the Executive Committee to get an answer to the question. Mr. Oguz suggested creating a survey for faculty and staff to provide feedback on the forums. Mr. Oguz and Ms. Killebrew will work to create a survey and provide the feedback to the Executive Committee members.

Statesmen Spotlight Day.....Dr. Bennett

Dr. Bennett reminded Cabinet members Statesmen Spotlight Day occurs on Monday, November 11. The Office of Admissions is expecting over 1,000 students once all schools are confirmed. Most of the event will take place in Walter Sillers Coliseum. Students will visit academic units in the morning, and the afternoon will feature talent by the Delta State family and opportunities to visit Financial Aid and Housing and Residence Life.

Additional information

- President LaForge reminded Cabinet members the Colloquia Series featuring Governor Haley Barbour and Mr. Jere Nash occurs next Tuesday, November 12. The lecture begins at 6:00 p.m. in Jobe Hall.
- Ms. Killebrew announced the Heritage Bowl Blood Drive sponsored by Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and SGA takes place on Wednesday and Thursday.
- Ms. Swindle announced her Vice President, Ms. Allison Brownlee, received the FedEx internship for next spring.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Homecoming, November 8-9
- Delta State football vs. University of West Georgia, November 9, 2:00 p.m., Parker Field. President’s Reception at 1:30 p.m., Dorgan Center
- Tedeschi Trucks Band, November 11, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, November 11 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Diversity Committee Update (President LaForge)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.