

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: October 14, 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, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, and Ms. Elizabeth Swindle (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

**Members not in attendance:** None

**Guests:** None

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on October 14, 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. Rutledge, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on October 7, 2019.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from the past week. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors had a retreat last week to listen to the consultant's recommendations on what the City of Cleveland and the Chamber may consider doing to improve aspects of the City. A part of the consultant's marketing recommendations was for the City of Cleveland and the Chamber to reciprocate in promoting Delta State and vice versa. President LaForge has asked Mr. Munroe to follow up with this recommendation. Cleveland's Octoberfest took place over the weekend, and Delta State served as sponsor in offering set up of our chairs and tables. President LaForge announced to Cabinet members Mr. Kinnison's jersey number, #15, was retired on Saturday at the Bi-Annual Baseball Reunion. A formal ceremony will take place during the spring.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet members he is devising a plan to reorganize the \$7.3 million bond funds to be given by the State in order to help renovate some of Delta State's residence halls. The residence halls — Cain-Tatum Hall, Fugler-Hammett Hall, and Lawler-Harkins Hall — have risen to the top of the priorities; however, the elevators, roofs, and HVAC systems remain a priority. Once the plan has been reviewed by the Executive Committee, he will bring the plan to Cabinet. Mr. Rutledge, the Director of Facilities Management, and the Director of Housing and Residence Life are conducting bi-weekly meetings to look at each residence hall to make sure they are in good condition for when sophomores are required to live on campus. The construction crew for Walter Sillers Coliseum is working with Mr. Kinnison and the coaches in order to meet deadlines. Construction documents for the Mayers Aquatics Center were received, and the next step is to go for bid. Concrete bases for lights were added to parking lots around the athletic complex during the Statesmen Boulevard project, but lights were not installed due to the

lack of funds. Some funds are available, and the goal is to have lights installed in the baseball stadium parking lot prior to Homecoming. IHL has narrowed down the search for a firm to complete the feasibility study on the golf course development to three firms, and Mr. Rutledge stated a firm should be chosen by Friday. Construction on the President's home is on track.

- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The football team succumbed to Valdosta State University over the weekend, and they will host the University of West Alabama this weekend. A reunion for the football team will be this weekend, and the 1969 team will be honored. The Bi-Annual Baseball Reunion took place over the weekend and welcomed over 100 baseball alumni to Cleveland. The men's soccer team lost to Christian Brothers University and Union University over the weekend, and they will compete against Oakwood University and Talladega College this weekend. The women's soccer team tied their first game against Christian Brothers University and won their second game against Union University. Both teams will be on the road this weekend. The golf team placed first in the Derrall Foreman Invitational last week, and they are competing at Lindenwood University today and tomorrow. The basketball teams move back to Walter Sillers Coliseum this week, and practice begins tomorrow.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. President LaForge and Dr. McAdams are scheduled to have dinner with the CEO of PeopleShores tonight to discuss potential partnerships. Delta State will host members of the Executive Committee from Alcorn State University on Tuesday as they evaluate our auxiliary services with Ellucian and Sodexo. President LaForge and several of the vice presidents will travel to Jackson on Wednesday for their respective meetings at IHL, a meeting with Dr. Al Rankins and Mr. John Pearce to discuss the budget improvement plan, and the IHL Board meeting on Thursday. The BPAC performance of BalletX occurs Thursday evening. President LaForge and Mr. Munroe travel to Leland on Friday afternoon for a cultivation visit with Mr. Thomas Gresham and Mr. Walton Gresham, and President LaForge will visit with the men's basketball team Friday evening.

### **CABINET TOPIC**

#### **Budget Revisions ..... Mr. Rutledge**

President LaForge and Mr. Rutledge provided Cabinet members with an update on the proposed budget revisions and improvement plan, which were developed in response to information received recently regarding inaccurate information being provided during the Spring 2019 budget planning process, as well as a decline in Delta State's cash balance due to unrealistic revenues and an increase in scholarship expenses. President LaForge stated the Executive Committee has deliberated since the last Cabinet meeting, and they have further refined the improvement plan. Mr. Rutledge stated the proposed plan includes permanent cuts, as well as temporary cuts. Mr. Rutledge emphasized that while this plan will get the university's budget where it needs to be for this fiscal year, additional budget adjustments will have to be made in the future until we have a sustainable budget, which can be achieved with realistic revenue projections and further enhanced with increases in enrollment and additional budget support from the State. The proposed plan does not cut programs or personnel and does not affect classroom instruction. At the recommendation of Cabinet members, President LaForge will release a campus update regarding the budget revisions and budget improvement plan.

### **BUSINESS**

#### **Action**

#### **Over 21 Program policy (deletion – final reading).....Dr. McAdams**

On the recommendation of Academic Council, Dr. McAdams brought the Over 21 Program policy to

Cabinet to be deleted from the university policies. Several months ago, Mr. Merritt Dain, Director of Admissions, requested the Over 21 Program policy be deleted and the information from the policy be put into the Undergraduate Admissions policy.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the deletion of the Over 21 Program policy and seconded by Ms. Swindle. The motion was approved.

**Undergraduate Admission Requirements policy (revised – final reading).....Dr. McAdams**

On the recommendation of Academic Council, Dr. McAdams brought the revised Undergraduate Admission Requirements policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Two substantive changes were made to the policy including a revision to the international student requirements and the addition of the verbiage from the Over 21 Program policy.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the revised Undergraduate Admission Requirements policy and seconded by Ms. Swindle. The motion was approved.

**Discussion**

**Campus Forums..... Dr. Roberts**

Dr. Roberts announced President LaForge will host the Faculty, Staff, and Student forums on Tuesday, November 5. The staff and faculty forums will be in the H. L. Nowell Student Union Room 302A at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., respectively. The student forum will begin at 12:15 p.m. in the H. L. Nowell Student Union 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor West Lobby. As in past forums, the constituency group leaders will be asked to host their respective forum and mediate the question and answer portion. The main topic of the forum will revolve around the budget revisions. The format of the student forum has been modified to try and increase attendance. Suggestions on topics to discuss include the golf course development and funding for the President’s home.

**Additional information**

- Ms. Swindle stated Homecoming elections had a good turnout, and her cabinet is looking at ways to improve voting for next year.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Delta State football vs. University of West Alabama, October 19, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field. President’s Reception at 5:30 p.m., Dorgan Center
- BalletX, October 17, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Empty Bowls Fundraiser, October 25, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors, October 29, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Presidential Forums, November 5 (Staff-10:00am, Students-12:15pm, Faculty–3:00pm)
- 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, October 14 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.