

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: October 26, 2020

Members in attendance: President William LaForge (via Zoom), Dr. Vernell Bennett-Fairs (via Zoom), Chief Jeffrey Johns (via Zoom), Mr. Mike Kinnison (via Zoom), Dr. Charles McAdams (via Zoom), Mr. Rick Munroe (via Zoom), Dr. Michelle Roberts (via Zoom), Mr. Jamie Rutledge (via Zoom), Mr. Jeff Slagell (via Zoom), Dr. Jonathan Westfall (via Zoom), and Mr. Richard Word (via Zoom) (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: None

Guest: Ms. Robin Douglas, COVID-19 Response Coordinator
Ms. Mary Parker Janoush, Academic Development Officer, University Advancement
Ms. Corley Mullins, Campaign Coordinator, University Advancement

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held via Zoom video conference on October 26, 2020. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Word and seconded by Mr. Rutledge, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on October 19, 2020.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Mr. Munroe introduced his new staff members. Ms. Mary Parker Janoush will serve as the Academic Development Officer, and Ms. Corley Mullins will be the Campaign Coordinator. President LaForge welcomed them to Delta State.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from the last week. The Gulf South Conference Board of Directors met last week. The Board of Directors continue to discussion upcoming athletic seasons and COVID-19 testing. The Education Achievement Council met last week to discuss educational goals for Mississippi. The new goal for Mississippi is to have 55% of citizens attain by 2030 a certificate or degree beyond a high school diploma, and for 60% of citizens attain by 2035 a certificate or degree beyond a high school diploma. Dr. Bennett-Fairs provided an overview of the Okra Out Front event. She reported that a great crowd of faculty, staff, students, and community members were in attendance for the event, and the committee did a wonderful job coordinating the event. The Delta State Foundation Board met last week, and the main topic was fundraising.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The golf team competes in their final tournament for the season today at the University of North Georgia. The cross-country team competes in the Gulf South Conference Championship meet at the University of Alabama-Huntsville this Saturday. The football team begins their second week of practice this week, and their first scrimmage is Saturday at 10:00

a.m. The softball and baseball teams are completing their fall practices this week. The baseball team will finish their Green and White Series this week with scrimmages on Tuesday and Saturday. The men's swimming and diving team meet at Missouri S&T was postponed until this Friday. They will compete beginning at 6:00 p.m. The Coaches Club Radio Show airs tonight at 6:00 p.m. on 107.5 FM.

- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The Mississippi Department of Transportation sidewalk project began last week at the H.L. Nowell Student Union, and the sidewalk and entrance into the Student Union will occur after students leave for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The new chiller for the Mayers Aquatics Center was installed last week, and the new Dectron unit will arrive in the next two weeks for installation. The roofing project for the residence halls was advertised last week and will advertise again this week. The elevator project will advertise this week and next week, and bids will be received in three to four weeks. The architect for the residence hall renovations will present plans within the next several weeks. The boilers in Ewing Hall and Brumby-Castle Hall need repair, and the contractor will be on campus this week to assess and repair them.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. President LaForge met with Delta State Foundation Board President Tom Janoush today. The Colloquia Lecture Series for the fall semester will take place tomorrow evening with Deputy Administrator of NASA Jim Morhard as the speaker. On Wednesday, President LaForge will film a special thank you message to veterans for Veterans Day. The 2020 American Association for State Colleges and Universities Annual Meeting occurs on Wednesday, and President LaForge will provide the welcome for the Association of College and University Educators session. The campus forums occur on Wednesday for students and on Thursday for employees, and both will take place at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom. Extra Table's fundraiser "Empty Bowls" benefitting food pantries and soup kitchens in the Delta occurs Friday at Delta Arts Alliance beginning at 10:30 a.m.

CABINET TOPIC

COVID-19 Response Update and Plans President LaForge

President LaForge led Cabinet members in a discussion of the university's COVID-19 plans for Fall 2020. Ms. Douglas provided Cabinet members with an update on several items related to her efforts as the COVID-19 Response Coordinator. She shared the current number of positive cases among faculty, staff, and students, and she reported on the number of faculty, staff, and students in quarantine and isolation. Ms. Douglas reported one student is in Hill Apartments, and no students are in the off-campus location. The university has no current hotspots.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updated their considerations for Institutions of Higher Education as of October 5, 2020, and Ms. Douglas shared the new considerations with Cabinet members. All considerations expand upon Delta State's current protocols.

- Expanded considerations on care for students and staff when becoming ill in an Institution of Higher Education (IHE) setting.
- Updated considerations on ventilation
 - Ms. Douglas has provided the updated considerations to Facilities Management Director Gerald Finley.
- Updated considerations on food service
 - Ms. Douglas has provided the updated considerations to Student Business Service Director Kelvin Davis.
- Updated considerations on contact tracing.
 - The Student Health Center will partner with the Bolivar County Health Department.

- IHEs might test students, faculty, and staff for purposes of surveillance, diagnosis, screening, or in the context of an outbreak.
 - Surveillance testing for the university still under consideration.
 - Ms. Douglas is currently working with the Executive Committee on Delta State’s outbreak plan.
- Updated considerations on coping and support
 - Ms. Douglas has provided these considerations to the Counseling Center.
- Updated considerations for Direct Service Providers
 - Considerations sent to the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing.

Delta State has a new Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) number that allows the Student Health Center to test for COVID-19, flu, strep, and drug test. Delta State’s physician, Dr. Steven Clark, will meet with the Healthcare Specialists to set up supervision of these services, as well as writing of prescriptions. With the addition of these services for the university, the Student Health Center will need funding for supplies and tests. The NCAA requires surveillance COVID-19 testing of student-athletes. Bolivar Medical Center will order 400 COVID-19 tests per week for the Athletics Department until November 30. These COVID-19 tests for athletes will be stored in the Athletics Department and monitored by Ms. Abby Havard. Ms. Havard will administer the COVID-19 tests to the student-athletes and deliver the tests for reading to Bolivar Medical Center. The Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) has funded a portion of the point-of-entry screeners for Delta State this Fall. Ms. Douglas has not received final confirmation on MDES providing additional funds for point-of-entry screeners for Spring 2021. Out of the 30 point-of-entry screeners, 16 will continue to work as point-of-entry screeners or COVID-19 cleaners after the university begins the work-from-home order on November 30. In an effort to recognize employees for going above and beyond the call of duty with regards to COVID-19, Ms. Douglas created the “COVID-19 Response Team Hero of the Week” recognition. This week’s selection is Mr. Kelvin Davis.

Mr. Kinnison announced the Athletics Department had a good week overall last week with no positive surveillance tests to report; however, a member of the men’s soccer team tested positive for COVID-19. Mr. Kinnison stated the case was isolated. Mr. Rutledge provided Cabinet members with an update on CARES Act funds. Mr. Rutledge provided recommendations to Cabinet members on how best to spend the remaining State CARES Act fund including: video editing software, additional sanitizing supplies and personal protective equipment, TRACSYSTEM print software, temporary janitorial staff, additional Police Office staff, distance education technology support and training, additional meals for student-athletes, additional space for quarantine and isolation, student-athlete testing, cameras to monitor the entrances of buildings, additional funding for computers and laptops, and healthcare testing supplies.

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

Sodexo Offerings in the Student Union Chief Johns

Chief Johns received emails concerning menu changes in the Sodexo retail locations in the H.L. Nowell Student Union. Mr. Rutledge stated he was not aware of any menu changes or reductions. He informed Cabinet members one retail location lacked some menu items upon opening, but items will be available

beginning in the Spring. As an aside, he stated some menu items are not available for university retail locations. Mr. Rutledge will check with Mr. Kelvin Davis to find out about any changes to the retail locations.

Christmas Parade/Float Request..... Mr. Kinnison

Mr. Kinnison announced the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce will not host the annual Christmas parade this year; however, some community organizations plan on creating holiday floats. The Chamber of Commerce requested use of the Athletics Department parking lots to house the holiday floats to provide a drive through event for the community. The parking lots used will be the parking lot behind Bryce Griffis Indoor Practice Facility and the parking lot behind Parker Field-McCool Stadium. The floats will be on campus November 30 through December 6, and the Cleveland Police Department will provide regular surveillance of the floats.

Campus Forums..... Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts reminded Cabinet members the forum for students will be held on Wednesday, October 28 at 3:00 p.m., and the forum for employees will be held on Thursday, October 29 at 3:00 p.m. Both forums will be held via Zoom. She requested help from Cabinet members in promoting the forums and encouraging employees and students to participate. Questions can be submitted to constituency group leaders prior to the forum or asked during the event. The links for each forum will be emailed to faculty, staff, and students the day prior to their respective forum.

FY21 Budget Update Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge provided an update on the FY21 budget. The university continues to monitor its spending, and revenue projections are on target. Currently, Mr. Rutledge is working on the yearly audit. After the bank reconciliation for October is complete the first or second week of November, Mr. Rutledge will bring an update to Cabinet. As mentioned in the COVID-19 update, the Student Health Center will need a budget for supplies in order to operate. Mr. Rutledge will reach out to different areas on campus to compile a budget for the Student Health Center.

Additional information

- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members the compliments he has received regarding the excellent job the faculty, staff, and students have done in keeping the spread of COVID-19 at a minimum.
- Mr. Kinnison announced Delta State alumna Debbie Brock will be inducted into the 2021 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame class. Ms. Brock played for the Lady Statesmen basketball team in the 1970s. The Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame will announce the class later this week, and Delta State will make a formal announcement following their press release.
- Dr. McAdams announced this week is Pre-Registration Week. He asked Cabinet members to encourage students to pre-register during this time.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Colloquia Lecture Series with Mr. Jim Morhard, October 27, Jobe Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.
- Campus Forum with Students, October 28, 3:00 p.m., via Zoom
- Campus Forum with Employees, October 29, 3:00 p.m., via Zoom

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, November 2 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – COVID-19 Response Update and Plans

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.