

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: October 7, 2019

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Ms. Tricia Killebrew, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Charles McAdams, Mr. Cetin Oguz, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, and Ms. Elizabeth Swindle (recorder – Ms. Phyllis Thornton)

Members not in attendance: Mr. Rick Munroe and Dr. Beverly Moon

Guests: Dr. Vicki Bingham, Dean, Robert E. Smith School of Nursing
Dr. Dave Breaux, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Leslie Griffin, Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences
Dr. Billy Moore, Dean, College of Business and Aviation (by phone)
Mr. Jeff Slagell, Dean, Roberts-LaForge Library

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on October 7, 2019. The meeting convened at 12:00 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 September 30, 2019.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from the past week. President LaForge had a conversation with State Auditor Shad White concerning the Blues Commission audit. No changes will be made to the audit, but Delta State plans to release a public statement on the findings concerning Delta State. President LaForge hosted a Faculty and Staff luncheon last week, and he asked Cabinet members for recommendations for invitees to the luncheons. If a Cabinet member has recommendation for the luncheons, please contact the President's Office. The BPAC featured a performance of Kool and the Gang in conjunction with the Sixth Annual International Conference on the Blues. President LaForge had lunch with Cleveland School District's Superintendent Dr. Otha Belcher, and they discussed potential partnership opportunities.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Mr. Rutledge will attend an update meeting on the Walter Sillers project this week. Concern has been expressed over the floors, and Mr. Rutledge assured Cabinet members the construction crews are supposed to clean up again today. Due to rain, the Fielding Wright Art Center/Holcombe-Norwood Hall and Facilities Management roofing project was not able to start today as planned. The project will begin tomorrow if it does not rain. A meeting to discuss the replacement of the HVAC system and to look at the completed plans for the Mayers Aquatics Center will take place on October 15. Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet members the priority listing for the \$7.3 million bond funds, available in December or January, will be altered slightly

to accommodate needed updates to the residence halls. Mr. Rutledge will bring an updated report to EC in the coming weeks. The Digital Media Arts Center is complete minus a few minor edits.

- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The football team suffered a hard loss against University of West Florida over the weekend, and they will compete against Valdosta State University on Saturday. The men’s soccer team tied Shorter University and lost to Lee University over the weekend, and they will compete against Christian Brothers University and Union University on Friday and Sunday, respectively. The women’s soccer team won against Shorter University and lost to Lee University over the weekend, and they will compete against Christian Brothers University and Union University on Friday and Sunday, respectively. The swimming and diving teams competed against Rhodes College this past weekend, and the Cross Country team will compete in the Mississippi College Invitational this weekend. The golf team hosts the Derrall Foreman Invitational today and tomorrow at the Cleveland Country Club. The baseball team will host their bi-annual reunion this weekend beginning on Friday.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Board retreat takes place Wednesday, and Fall Break for faculty and students begins Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. Oktoberfest, in downtown Cleveland, kicks off Friday and continues Saturday. President LaForge reminded Cabinet members of the President’s football reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. prior to the Delta State vs. Valdosta State University football game.

CABINET TOPIC

Budget Revisions Mr. Rutledge

President LaForge and Mr. Rutledge provided Cabinet members and the academic deans with an update on Delta State’s financial situation. Mr. Rutledge was recently made aware that the numbers provided to him during the budget planning process in Spring 2019 were inaccurate. Also, Delta State’s debt and reserve ratios are off due to a decline in cash balance, which was caused by unrealistic revenue projections and an increase in scholarship expenses. Mr. Rutledge and the Executive Committee have put together a proposed plan to correct the FY20 budget and to increase Delta State’s days of cash. *(See handouts.)*

BUSINESS

Action

Budget Revisions Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge presented to Cabinet members a proposed plan to correct the FY20 budget and to increase Delta State’s days of cash balance by year-end.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to adopt the proposed budget plan to correct the FY20 budget and seconded by Dr. McAdams. The motion was approved.

Over 21 Program policy (deletion – first 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 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 policy and seconded by Dr. Roberts. The motion was approved.

Undergraduate Admission Requirements policy (revised – first 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 deletion of the Over 21 policy and seconded by Dr. Roberts. The motion was approved.

Discussion

None

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Fall Break, October 10-11
- Delta State football vs. Valdosta State University, October 12, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field. President’s Reception at 5:30 p.m., Dorgan Center
- 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
- 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

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, October 14 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.