

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: September 11, 2017**

**Members in attendance:** President William LaForge, Dr. George Beals, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Dr. Dave Breaux, Ms. Ashley Griffin, Mr. Patrick Hundley, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, and Ms. Caitlyn Thompson (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

**Members not in attendance:** Dr. Michelle Roberts

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on September 11, 2017. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Hundley, seconded by Dr. Breaux, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on August 28, 2017.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge expressed his condolences to the families of Dr. William Ross Story, Mr. Ed Kossman, and Mrs. Allie Mayers.
- President LaForge participated in the DSUnited Panel that reiterated Delta State's commitment to diversity, inclusivity, and a cohesive learning environment. President LaForge stated it was a good event with worthwhile discussions about race and other issues on campus.
- President LaForge and Mr. Rutledge met with representatives from the Bureau of Buildings to discuss the new President's home. President LaForge and Mr. Rutledge will attend another meeting on Friday with IHL officials.
- President LaForge and Mr. Keith Fulcher met with two donors, Dr. Bennie Wright and Mr. Joe Janoush, during the past two weeks to discuss the Capital Campaign and Visioning.
- President LaForge met with Dr. McAdams and other university officials to discuss two potential Fulbright opportunities. Dr. McAdams explained to Cabinet Members the requests come from the John Paul Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) and Perm State University. KUL requested to send a scholar, who has an interest in local governance in America, to Delta State in the Spring of 2019. This scholar will teach and do research. Perm State requested Delta State professors to teach at their university. Dr. Beverly Moon, Dr. Jamie Dahman, and Ms. Michelle Johansen are working to finalize the logistics of this request.
- President LaForge attended the Employee of the Month surprise for Ms. Stella Pruitt. Ms. Pruitt, a member of the Facilities Management staff, worked diligently to help move the Music Department to their temporary location in Jobe Hall.
- President LaForge participated in a conference call with IHL Commissioner Glenn Boyce and the other IEOs to strategize on their approach to legislators for the upcoming budget cycle. President LaForge stated their plan was to present to the budget committee the state-funding amount needed in order to

forgo a tuition increase for next year. The amount of Delta State’s budget request is \$3.8 million.

- President LaForge began his department visits with the Department of Physics and Chemistry. He stated the visit went very well, and it was a great start to this program.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. He attended a meeting last Friday with the Bureau of Buildings and the contractors for the cafeteria to present the proceed notice on construction. If all goes according to plan, the newly remodeled cafeteria will open the first day of school in Fall 2018. The construction crew continues to work on the drainage portion of Statesmen Boulevard. The roadwork portion of the project should start soon. The work on Parker Field was finished last week, and last week’s football game was played on the new turf. Mr. Rutledge stated he was very proud of that project and the teamwork needed to make it happen. The temporary kitchen in the Union has received positive feedback, and Aramark staff are feeding approximately 650 students per day at lunch.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. He stated Statesmen Athletics had a great weekend. The football field project was completed after five weeks. Mr. Mayers expressed his appreciation to Mr. Rutledge and Mr. Hundley for their work on the project. Both soccer teams played over the weekend, and both did very well. The football team won on Saturday and, at half-time, Make-A-Wish presented three children with granted wishes. The swimming and diving team will host the University of Alabama on Friday, and the football team will host the University of West Georgia on Saturday.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities for the next two weeks. He will travel to Olive Branch on Tuesday to recruit at Center Hill High School. On Wednesday, he will welcome high school seniors at the Chick-fil-A Leaders Academy Kick-off event; attend Delta State’s 92<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Whitfield Hall; and, host an ice cream social for new students that evening. On Thursday, President LaForge will attend the Cleveland Music Foundation Board meeting and a welcome party for DSU international students at the Martin and Sue King Railroad Museum. On Friday, President LaForge will attend the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Rice Luncheon, and he will visit with the Division of Languages and Literature. President and Mrs. LaForge will host a football reception prior to the kickoff of the Delta State vs. University of West Georgia game on Saturday in the Dorgan Center. Next week, President LaForge will recruit at Pillow Academy, Desoto Central High School, and Lake Cormorant High School. The BPAC performance of Tracy Lawrence occurs next Thursday.
- Dr. Bennett reminded Cabinet Members of the “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event next Thursday as part of the first Men’s Conference. She encouraged the men to register and participate in the walk.

**CABINET TOPIC**

None

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

**Recommendation from the Naming Committee .....Dr. Charles McAdams**

Dr. McAdams referenced the recommendation from the Naming Committee to name the Elliott Laws Pre-Health Professional Laboratory in honor of Drs. Mary and Robert Elliott for their continued support for pre-health professional students. Cabinet Members voted on the recommendation by e-mail last week. Dr. McAdams stated the email vote consisted of nine members voting in favor of the recommendation and two members did not respond.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. McAdams to ratify the action taken by Cabinet Members on the naming of the Elliott Laws Pre-Health Professional Laboratory in honor of Drs. Mary and Robert Elliott and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. **The motion was approved.**

**Discussion**

**Colloquia Series speakers ..... President LaForge**

President LaForge announced the first speaker for this year’s Colloquia Distinguished Speakers Lecture Series will be Dr. Rod Paige. Dr. Paige served as the seventh U.S. Secretary of Education under President George W. Bush, and most recently, he served as Interim President at Jackson State University. Dr. Paige’s lecture will take place on Tuesday, October 10 at 6:00 p.m. in Jobe Hall. The second speaker for the lecture series will be Mr. Fred Smith, CEO of FedEx. His lecture will take place on Wednesday, March 21. President LaForge asked Cabinet Members for their help in building attendance for both events.

**Enrollment Report ..... Dr. McAdams**

Dr. McAdams announced enrollment increased at Delta State from Fall 2016 to Fall 2017. The reports sent to Cabinet Members this morning showed enrollment was up 200 students from this time last year. The unduplicated headcount is 3,788. Dr. McAdams stated Delta State needs 212 more students to have 4,000 students enrolled. In a few weeks, Dr. McAdams will provide a detailed report that identifies the growth areas. The Office of Enrollment Management was more proactive in their recruiting efforts this year, including changing one recruiter to focus solely on out-of-state students.

**Dual Credit geographic restriction ..... Dr. McAdams**

This summer, Delta State received a new draft of the Dual Credit Policy, which is a joint venture of the IHL and Community College systems. The policy stated that no institution should offer dual credit to anyone outside of a 50-mile radius. This statement was in the policy because of the community college system. Dr. McAdams questioned the statement, and, after some discussion, the statement was lifted from the policy. The community college system will keep this as a rule, but it will not apply to the IHL system.

**Department of Education Program Review response ..... Dr. Bennett**

Dr. Bennett distributed to Cabinet Members a copy of Delta State’s response to the Department of Education regarding our Program Review. The letter will be submitted tomorrow. Ms. Christie Rocconi and several others worked to make the necessary changes. Dr. Bennett stated the changes have not caused any problems and the Office of Financial Assistance is running smoothly. President LaForge thanked Dr. Bennett and her directors for their hard work on getting Delta State compliant with the Department of Education.

**Four-day Workweek Energy Conservation report ..... Mr. Rutledge**

Mr. Rutledge distributed to Cabinet Members a report showing the budget savings realized as a result of the Summer four-day workweek and cutback on utilities. He reported that we saved a total of \$163,724 for the months of May through August 2017, as a result of the university’s summer utility savings program. The university exceeded its goal by \$67,724. The summer utility savings program will occur again in Summer 2018, and Mr. Rutledge believes the university can save even more money next summer. His plan is to use the savings to buy air and heating controls for the Aviation Building and the Union.

**Additional Information**

- Ms. Griffin informed Cabinet Members that SGA is working to change the “Miss Delta State University” title, which is for the person who competes in the Miss Mississippi Pageant, in order to eliminate

confusion with the “Miss DSU” title, which is for the female student who receives the most student votes as part of the class favorites selection process. The “Miss DSU” title will now be combined with Delta State’s Homecoming Queen.

- Ms. Thompson informed Cabinet Members of the combined effort by Staff Council, Faculty Senate, and students to gather donations for Hurricane Harvey victims. The first load of donations was delivered over the weekend and another load will go out this week. Ms. Thompson stated that there was an overwhelming response by the Delta State family. Mr. Mayers stated that Delta State has students from Texas and Florida who were affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.
- Dr. Beals announced that Dr. McAdams will speak this week at Faculty Senate’s first meeting of the year.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Delta State’s 92<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Celebration, September 13, 12:00 noon, DMI.
- Ice Cream Social for new students, September 13, 5:00 pm, Union, Second Floor, West Lobby.
- Welcome Party for DSU International Students, September 14, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, Martin and Sue King Railroad Museum.
- DSU vs. University of West Georgia, September 16, 2:00 pm (Wear White), Parker Field. Military Appreciation Day. President’s Reception at 1:30 pm in the Dorgan Center.
- Tracy Lawrence performance, September 21, 7:30 pm, BPAC.

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, September 25
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Honor’s Program (Dr. McAdams)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.