

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT’S CABINET
Minutes

Meeting date: September 2, 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

Call to Order: A special meeting of the President’s Cabinet was held via Zoom conference call on September 2, 2020. The meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

CABINET TOPIC

Update from COVID-19 Response Coordinator President LaForge

President LaForge led Cabinet members in a discussion of the university’s COVID-19 response efforts and plans for Fall 2020. During the August 10 Cabinet meeting, Cabinet members approved that the threshold of 65 positive cases in a 14-day period would prompt Cabinet members to convene to discuss the university’s appropriate course of action. On Tuesday, September 1, the university reached this threshold number. Ms. Douglas shared with Cabinet members a graph outlining the number of positive cases per day during the last two weeks. On August 24-26, our largest spike in student cases was seen; however, the number of cases per day decreased after the 26th. Ms. Douglas stated this spike in student cases was not unexpected with students having returned to campus just a week prior. The majority of the cases are commuter students. Through the screening process, Ms. Douglas has pinpointed areas of concern which are areas that have three to four positive cases in an isolated area or “pod.” Ms. Douglas and Dr. Bennett-Fairs have worked, and are continuing to work, with pinpointed areas of concern to provide additional information and more education on the university’s protocols. Ms. Douglas does not recommend making any changes to the university’s operations at this time.

Dr. Bennett-Fairs and Ms. Douglas requested documentation from custodians on times common areas within residence halls and academic buildings are cleaned. Mr. Rutledge has reached out to the Manager of Custodial and Support Services about this request, and he will ask Building Managers to inform him of additional cleaning needs within their respective buildings. Cabinet members previously approved the hiring of six additional custodians to help with the university’s extra sanitation efforts; however, Mr. Rutledge reported they have been unable to fill all of the positions due to a small number of applicants. To help fill the positions, Ms. Douglas will share with Mr. Rutledge the applications she received for the pool of point-of-entry screener positions.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.