

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: September 23, 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

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on September 23, 2019. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rutledge and seconded by Ms. Swindle, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on September 18, 2019.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from the past week. President LaForge visited Bayou Academy last week to recruit. The BPAC held a performance of Craig Morgan for a great crowd. President LaForge spoke to the Board of Trustees at the IHL Board Retreat on behalf of Delta State last week. Dr. Bennett gave an overview of Fall Preview Day, and she informed Cabinet members 153 students attended, which was 70 more students than last year. President LaForge asked for a recap on Pig Pickin', and all areas involved stated all went well and were pleased with crowds and participation.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Progress continues with the Walter Sillers Coliseum project. The roofing portion, replacing lights, and addition of boilers is all on schedule. The framing of the new President's home is going up, and the back porch concrete slab will be poured next week. The roof repairs on Cain-Tatum Hall, Whitfield Hall (DMI), and Lawler-Harkins Hall should be finished this week. The construction plans for the Mayers Aquatics Center should be finished within three weeks, and the architects for the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing addition by October 1.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The women's soccer team competed against Ouachita Baptist University and Harding University last week, and they tied both games. Women's soccer and men's soccer will compete this week on Friday and Sunday against University of Alabama at Huntsville and University of West Alabama, respectively. The football team won on Saturday against Florida Tech, and they will travel to South Carolina this weekend to compete against North Greenville University. The golf team has tournament this week at Columbus State University. The cross country team will be at University of Alabama at Huntsville on Saturday.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. President LaForge and Mr. Curt McCain, Headmaster at Bayou Academy, had lunch today and

discussed potential partnerships possibilities. FedEx officials will be on campus Tuesday for FedEx Takeover Day, a day to celebrate Delta State and FedEx's ongoing relationship and recruit for their company. Tuesday afternoon, President LaForge will speak to a consultant for the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce as he seeks what the needs of Cleveland are. GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi will host a fundraiser Tuesday with An Evening with Garth Brooks. The Foundation Task Force meets and the Winning the Race Conference Planning Committee meets on Wednesday. On Thursday, the NCAA DII Planning and Finance Committee will have a conference call.

CABINET TOPIC

Visioning Principles Goals for 2019-20.....Mr. Kinnison and Mr. Munroe

Mr. Kinnison and Mr. Munroe presented to Cabinet Members their respective goals for FY20 in support of Visioning Goals one, four through seven, and ten. *(see reports)*

BUSINESS

Action

Faculty Annual Evaluation policy (new – final reading)Dr. McAdams

On the recommendation of Academic Council, Dr. McAdams brought the new Faculty Annual Evaluation policy to Cabinet for a final reading. The Academic Council received a recommendation from Faculty Senate to modify the time frame in which faculty are evaluated. Prior to the creation of this policy, faculty were evaluated from April 1 through March 31. The new evaluation period is January 1 through December 31.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the Faculty Annual Evaluation policy for a final reading and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. The motion was approved.

Distance Education policy (revised – final reading)Dr. McAdams

On the recommendation of Academic Council, Dr. McAdams brought the revised Distance Education policy to Cabinet for a final reading. The revisions made to this policy were presented to Academic Council by the Distance Education Committee, and the revisions included 1) updating the policy to reflect current practice, and 2) a refined review process based on identified best practices and accepted national standards as outlined by Quality Matters.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the revised Distance Education policy for a final reading and seconded by Ms. Swindle. The motion was approved.

Grades and Credits policy (revised – final reading)Dr. McAdams

On the recommendation of Academic Council, Dr. McAdams brought the revised Grades and Credits policy to Cabinet for a final reading. The two primary changes made to the policy were a clearer definition of the grade "I" and an update to the accepted credit by examination options. Dr. McAdams made two revisions to the policy following the first reading at the recommendation of Cabinet members. Those changes were changing grading system to a definition and deleting unnecessary text under System of Grading.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the revised Grades and Credits policy for a final reading and seconded by Mr. Oguz. The motion was approved.

Scholastic Honors policy (revised – final reading)Dr. McAdams

On the recommendation of Academic Council, Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet the revised Scholastic Honors policy for a final reading. The Scholastic Honors policy was revised in order to provide parity between the policy and the Academic Catalogs. One substantive change was made to the policy, and it was a change in the semester hours of academic credits required for the Doyce Stallings Mitchell Honor Diploma from 62 to 60.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the revised Scholastic Honors policy for a final reading and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. The motion was approved.

Discussion

None

Additional information

- The Department of Athletics Hall of Fame Committee met Saturday, September 21 to nominate the 2019 induction class. Mr. Kinnison stated it is an impressive group, and the class will be announced at Homecoming.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, September 26, 5:30 p.m., Cotton House
- International Conference on the Blues, October 3-4
- Kool and the Gang, October 3, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- 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

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, September 30 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Visioning Principles Goals for 2019-20 (Ms. Killebrew, Mr. Oguz, Mr. Rutledge, and Ms. Swindle)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.