

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: April 18, 2022

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vicki Bingham, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Mr. Rick Munroe (via phone), Dr. Andy Novobilski, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, Ms. Nakikke Wallace, Dr. Andrew Wegmann, and Mr. William Young (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: None

Guests: Dr. Joshua Armstrong, President-Elect, Faculty Senate
Ms. Bonnie Jean Dillon, Winner, President's Art Award
Ms. Caroline Fletcher, Chair-Elect, Administrative Staff Council
Dr. Leslie Griffin, Representative-Elect, Academic Council
Mr. Cetin Oguz, Chair, Art Department
Ms. Laken Templeton, Winner, Cabinet Art Award

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on April 18, 2022. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Dr. Novobilski, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on April 11, 2022.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge introduced and welcomed Mr. Cetin Oguz, Chair of the Art Department, and asked him to introduce the students who recently won the top awards at the Student Art Exhibit. Mr. Oguz introduced Ms. Bonnie Dillion, who won the President's Art Award, and Ms. Laken Templeton, who won the Cabinet Art Award. Ms. Dillion won with her piece titled "Sammy's Zinnias". Ms. Templeton won with a piece titled "A Willing Poet." Cabinet members congratulated the winners. President LaForge thanked Cabinet members for providing personal financial support for the Cabinet Art Award.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. The Delta State Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa held their initiation ceremony last week. President LaForge hosted a reception for the initiates at his home following the ceremony. President LaForge continued his departmental visits with a visit to Sports Medicine and Strength and Conditioning. GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi hosted "Big Night with Women in the Round." President LaForge provided a welcome to the Economic Leaders Forum. The Office of Alumni Affairs hosted the Annual Bolivar County Alumni Crawfish Boil.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The campus-wide roofing project was delayed again due to weather, and its completion date will be in mid-May. The pre-project meeting for the Mississippi Department of Transportation sidewalk project is this week. Mr. Rutledge met with the contractor of the School of Nursing expansion and renovation project to discuss correcting several

issues in order to commence renovations. Mr. Rutledge is hopeful the parking lot will be completed by August. The vendor for the volleyball court for students needs five consecutive days without rain in order for them to begin construction.

- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The softball team hosted University of West Florida for a double-header last Friday and lost both games. The baseball team hosted University of West Florida, as well, for one game and won. Each team had to cancel games due to rain. The baseball team travels to Arkansas on Tuesday to compete against Arkansas Tech University, and they travel to Alabama this weekend to compete against University of West Alabama. The softball team hosts Southern Arkansas University on Tuesday, and they travel to Alabama to compete against University of West Alabama this weekend. The golf team finished seventh in the GSC Golf Championship Tournament. The men's and women's tennis teams competed against Southeastern Oklahoma State University over the weekend. The men's team won their match, and the women's team lost. The men's team qualified for the GSC Championship Tournament. The football team completes Spring practice this week. Mr. Kinnison and the Athletics Department hosted a press conference this morning to announce that Ms. Tracy Stewart-Lange has been hired as the new Head Coach of Women's Basketball.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. President LaForge filmed another segment of his Statesmen Insider this morning with Coach Andy Rincker and Mr. Landon Zimman of the baseball team. The College of Education and Human Sciences will host their annual Honors Recognition Program on Tuesday. The Institutional Executive Officers will have their monthly meeting on Wednesday, and the IEOs will participate in a conference call later in the day with Dr. Nancy Zimpher to discuss Systems at NASH program. The College of Arts and Sciences Spring Scholarship Recognition Ceremony will be held on Wednesday afternoon. The IHL Board of Trustees will have their monthly meeting on Thursday. The College of Business and Aviation Spring Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, and the Sammy O. Cranford Memorial History Lecture will take place on Thursday evening. The Annual Retirement and Service Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Friday at 2:00 p.m. The Big Green Event sponsored by SGA will take place on Saturday morning.
- President LaForge invited Cabinet members to attend three upcoming dinners. President LaForge is hosting an Inauguration Dinner for outgoing and incoming SGA members on Monday, April 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the President's home. In collaboration with SGA, President LaForge is hosting a Graduation Celebration for graduating international students on Wednesday, May 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the President's home. On Thursday, May 5, President LaForge is hosting a dinner honoring Spring 2022 Honorary Degree Recipient and Commencement Speaker Walt Bettinger in the Leroy E. Morganti Atrium of Kent Wyatt Hall. The dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., with a social beginning 30 minutes prior.
- President LaForge announced former Vice President for Student Affairs Vernell Bennett-Fairs will have her inauguration as President of Lemoyne-Owen College on May 5. Due to the universities many activities that week, President LaForge will not be able to attend. He asked for representation by the Cabinet, and Mr. Munroe shared his interest in attending.

CABINET TOPIC

Campus Forum preparation President LaForge

Dr. Roberts provided Cabinet members an overview of the talking points for the upcoming Campus Forum, which will be held on Tuesday, April 26, at 2:00 p.m. in Jacob Conference Center in Ewing Hall. The Campus Forum is open to all faculty and staff. Topics for the campus forum include: the budget status for FY22; Legislative Session results for 2022; the budget impact for FY23; current campus projects; new initiatives; SACSCOC reaffirmation; and, upcoming events. A question and answer segment will occur after each segment. Questions can be submitted to constituency group leaders prior to the forum or asked during the

event. Due to concerns expressed by faculty and staff after the last forum, budget and enrollment topics will be discussed first. Cabinet members recommended adding additional topics: update on Scholarship Management System; recommendations made by Prosper & Partner for Office of Student Affairs; and, an enrollment update.

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

Enrollment Update/Overview Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin reviewed with Cabinet members the enrollment update and overview from Thursday, April 14: 85 enrolled students; 206 confirmed students; 704 admitted students; 1,170 incomplete applications (missing documents); 586 online applications started; and, 18,634 prospects — for a total of 21,385 students being targeted for undergraduate admissions. The first round of total commitments is 88, and the first round of Takin’ Care of Business Days is tomorrow.

Institutional Effectiveness and Planning update Dr. Novobilski

Dr. Novobilski has asked Dr. Beverly Moon to finalize a timeline of the reaccreditation process that he will share at the Campus Forum next week. Dr. Novobilski stated this is a great time for the university to focus on our long-range plans.

FY23 Budget Update Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet members of the final figures from the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) for our State appropriations. Delta State received \$22,095,006 in Education and General funds and \$1,405,826 in Legislative Line items funds for a total of \$23,500,832 from State appropriations. The increase in appropriations does not have stipulations placed on it by the Mississippi legislature. The university is set to receive \$607,000 in Repair and Renovation funds for campus improvement projects. The university received \$2 million in Education Enhancement Funds to purchase flight equipment for the Commercial Aviation Department, and these funds will be used to purchase five new aircrafts. Bond projects will be funded with the State’s excess cash funds for FY23, and the university will receive \$5.6 million. Mr. Rutledge shared with Cabinet members the intent of the legislature that a portion of the increase in appropriations go toward salary increases. At the next Executive Committee meeting and Cabinet meeting, Mr. Rutledge will bring recommendations for funding additional Phase I and Phase II priorities; salary increases; and, salary increases for market compression. As of last week, the university had spent 68% of its budget for the year. The university’s cash is on schedule to increase by \$1.5 - \$2.0 million for this fiscal year.

Additional Information

- Mr. Young announced SGA is finalizing details for The Big Green Event this Saturday. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. at Parker Field with breakfast refreshments, a welcome, and instructions. Projects begin at 9:15 a.m. There will be approximately 250 student participants who will be split between 15 different groups and will be volunteering on campus, downtown Cleveland, Robinson-Carpenter Memorial Library, and residential homes. Cabinet members are welcome to drop by Parker Field to speak to students prior to the start of the events.

- SGA Inauguration is scheduled for Monday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m. in Jobe Hall Auditorium. Cabinet members are welcome to attend.
- Dr. Lovin reminded Cabinet members the Division of Student Affairs Awards Ceremony is tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the BPAC.
- Mr. Rutledge announced all universities within the IHL system requested a tuition increase except one, and Delta State had the second lowest board and room rates for the system.
- Mr. Young asked for confirmation on the amount of tickets students will be given for Commencement. Dr. Novobilski stated that six tickets will be provided to each graduating student.
- Dr. Wegmann announced Faculty Senate held their officer elections for 2022-23. President-Elect is Ms. Taylor Skelton. Ms. Maia Wegmann will continue as Secretary/Treasurer. Dr. Armstrong will be President for 2022-23.
- Dr. Novobilski announced the Association of National Heritage Areas will be on campus this week for meetings.
- Mr. Kinnison announced the Athletics Department will host its annual Green and White Awards on Tuesday, April 26 at 6:00 p.m. in Walter Sillers Coliseum.
- Ms. Caroline Fletcher announced the Administrative Staff Council held their elections earlier this month, and Ms. Holly Ray was elected Chair-Elect and Ms. Julie Jackson was re-elected Secretary/Treasurer.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Division of Student Affairs Awards Ceremony, April 18, 7:00 p.m., BPAC
- Student Affairs' "Takin' Care of Business Day," April 19, April 22, April 26 (a.m. only)
- SGA's Big Green Event, April 23
- Campus Forum, April 26, 2:00 p.m., Jacob Conference Center
- Spring Commencement, May 6, 10:00 a.m., Walter Sillers Coliseum

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting –Monday, April 25, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Campus Forum preparation (President LaForge)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.