

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: April 30, 2018

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. George Beals, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Dr. Dave Breaux, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Ms. Christie Rocconi, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: Ms. Ashley Griffin and Mr. Patrick Hundley

Guests: Ms. Deborah Cox, Chief Financial Officer, University Advancement
Dr. Edwin Craft, Chief Information Officer, Office of Information Technology
Dr. Severine Groh, President, Faculty Senate
Dr. Christy Riddle, Chair-Elect, Administrative Staff Council

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on April 30, 2018. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rutledge and seconded by Dr. Beals, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on April 23, 2018.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge welcomed Dr. Christy Riddle, chair-elect for the Administrative Staff Council, and Dr. Severine Groh, Faculty Senate President to Cabinet as they begin shadowing their outgoing counterparts on the President's Cabinet.
- Tupelo High School's Dual Credit students visited Delta State a few weeks ago. President LaForge was able to welcome them to campus; and, he believes this is the first time students enrolled in the dual credit program with Delta State have visited the campus.
- President LaForge hosted his annual Graduating International Student reception a couple of weeks ago. The event went very well and many students were able to attend. President LaForge was pleased to announce that 26 international students will graduate on Saturday.
- President LaForge attended the BPAC performance of Cinderella. He stated the program produced a great turnout for the BPAC's final performance of the year.
- President LaForge attended the IEO and IHL Board meetings a couple of weeks ago. During the IEO meeting, several important topics were discussed including MISSION IT and the University Press of Mississippi. During the legislative session, the legislature declined the IHL system's request to fund MISSION IT for \$997,000, which added an unexpected expense to all eight universities. However, the IHL system has a new contract with CSpire that will be less expensive for the regional universities and doubles our bandwidth. Delta State will see the effects of the new connection on July 1. The University Press of Mississippi has been a hot topic for some time as they maintained flat funding while all eight

universities received budget cuts. President LaForge informed Cabinet Members the University Press of Mississippi is a part of the IHL system and it was created to support the literary needs of the system. The University Press of Mississippi has a Board to make their decisions. Delta State has two delegates on the Board, Dr. Shelley Collins and newly appointed, Mr. Jeff Slagell. Additional items discussed during the IEO meeting included tuition increases and enhance carry permits and the need to compare each universities policies and stances on the matter.

- President LaForge attended a farewell reception and dinner for the four Board of Trustees completing their terms on May 7: Mr. Alan Perry, Ms. Christy Pickering, Dr. Doug Rouse, and Mr. C.D. Smith.
- President LaForge met with Ms. Meredith Creekmore and key members of the CSpire Foundation for a campaign update a couple of weeks ago.
- President LaForge attended and participated in the inauguration of Dr. Jerryl Briggs, president of Mississippi Valley State University. President LaForge informed Cabinet Members he and Dr. Briggs will swap places for a day in the fall and serve as president at the other university.
- Ms. Cox gave an update on the Foundation Board meeting. The Foundation Board voted and approved a new slate of Board members. The slate will be used to select individuals for the four or five current openings, as well as to have a few additional names to draw from if members were to resign during their term. The Board adopted changes to the Foundation's bylaws. Ms. Cox stated the main changes to the bylaws were house cleaning items and term limits.
- The Office of Human Resources hosted the Retirement and Recognition Ceremony a couple of weeks ago. President LaForge stated it was a very dignified and wonderful ceremony honoring our retirees and those receiving their service pins.
- President LaForge visited with two UGRAD students from Pakistan prior to their departure from campus. The visit allowed the students to meet President LaForge and reminisce on their time at Delta State.
- GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi recently hosted an educational weekend on Elvis Presley. President LaForge was able to attend and stated it boasted a great turnout.
- President LaForge attended the NCAA DII President's Council and Planning and Finance Committee meetings in Indianapolis last week. During his time there, the Commission on Basketball delivered their report to the three divisions of the NCAA. The Commission was formed to deal with issues arising from the previous basketball season and a criminal case in New York. President LaForge stated the Commission made a strong recommendation to move away from the "one and done" rule for the NBA as they don't want the NBA to encourage student-athletes not to finish college. Collegiate basketball will not go the professional play route, and the Commission wants to strengthen the current model for amateur/collegiate basketball.
- Last week, President LaForge held his annual faculty, staff, and student forums as an opportunity to present each constituency with information on the budget, facilities projects, tuition, and allow each constituency to ask questions. President LaForge thanked his Executive Committee members for participating and serving on the panel and the representatives from Faculty Senate, Administrative Staff Council, and SGA for moderating each forum.
- Ms. Cox announced the Alumni Association Board met last week. She informed Cabinet Members one of their main topics of discussion for the day was to work on the definitions for the types of Alumni chapters and marketing strategies on getting alumni to join the Alumni Association.
- President LaForge welcomed attendees of Spring Preview Day held last Friday. He stated it was a great event for recruitment purposes.
- President LaForge met with Mr. Jack Davis last week to provide him with an update on the Capital Campaign.
- Delta State hosted its annual Go Green event last weekend. President LaForge stated the weekend

featured great pizzazz. Dr. McAdams stated Spring Preview Day showed great enthusiasm from all participants, and the Enrollment Management team was pleased with the event. Mr. Mayers stated Athletics had a great ceremony for the Dedication of the Derrall Foreman Golf Course. The ceremony included the reading of letters from some of Coach Foreman's former players as well as the unveiling of the dedication marker. Coach Foreman's daughter was in attendance and was very grateful to Delta State for honoring her father. Another part of Go Green Weekend was the Delta Models Reunion. President LaForge welcomed the former models back to campus. He stated it was a nice event and expressed his appreciation to the University Advancement staff on their hard work on planning the event.

- Dr. Bennett stated that Greek Week culminated in the Greek Awards on Friday and the Multicultural Step Show on Saturday. She stated both events went very well. The Greek system charged an entry fee at the Multicultural Step Show to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The show had a great crowd, and chapters of the National Panhellenic Council and the National Pan-Hellenic Council participated.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. The baseball and softball teams had a great weekend for their series with Mississippi College. The baseball team won two games and the softball team won one game. The golf team received a bid to play in the NCAA Regional Tournament, beginning on May 7. The softball team will play at the University of North Alabama on Thursday against Valdosta State University in the GSC Tournament. The softball tournament will be double elimination. The baseball team will host the GSC Championship Tournament at Ferriss Field beginning on Saturday, May 5. The tournament will be pool play and the two teams with the highest scores after three days of play will advance to the championship game on Tuesday, May 8. During the tournament, the baseball team will play the University of West Alabama, University of North Alabama, and Mississippi College. Mr. Mayers presented President LaForge with the ring that the baseball team will receive as participants in the 2017 World Series. The baseball team gifted President LaForge with the ring as a thank you for his dedication to the baseball team.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Part of the pavement was poured for Statesmen Boulevard. Mr. Rutledge hopes for a continuation of good weather in order to finish this portion of the project. The faculty and staff who work in Zeigel Hall should be able to move back into the building at the end of May or first of June. Young-Mauldin Cafeteria should be ready for students in August. Mr. Rutledge will soon create a priority list for the bond money the university received—Delta State received approximately \$2.5 million. Once he has a list ready, he will take the list to the Executive Committee for review prior to bringing it to Cabinet. The main priorities for campus are ADA compliance and roofing repairs.
- President LaForge hosted his final Faculty and Staff Luncheon for the semester today. His guests included Mr. Matthew Harris (Student Success Center), Mr. Danny Moore (Facilities Management), and Ms. Sheryl Stephens (Division of Management, Marketing, and Business Administration). He stated the luncheons were a great opportunity for him to get to know more members of the campus community and learn more about the campus.
- Dr. Bennett reminded Cabinet Members that the Dancing with the DSU stars program takes place tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the BPAC. Four of the dancers, Ms. Rocconi, Mr. Mayers, Dr. Beals, and Dr. Bennett, are Cabinet Members.
- Ms. Cox announced the annual Bolivar County Crawfish Boil takes place on Thursday, May 3 beginning at 5:30 p.m. During the event, a silent auction is held to raise money for the Liza Vaughn Memorial scholarship.
- President LaForge reminded Cabinet Members of the Commencement dinner on Friday, May 4 honoring Dr. Glen Jones, president of Henderson State University. The reception and dinner will be held in the Leroy E. Morganti Atrium in Kent Wyatt Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m.

- Dr. Bennett announced the Student Hall of Fame Dinner will take place on Friday, May 4 beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Union. Eight students will be inducted into the Hall of Fame.
- President LaForge leaves on Sunday to teach at KUL in Lublin, Poland for two weeks.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Distance Learning Fee Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge reminded Cabinet Members of the Course and Optional Fees for FY19 approved by Cabinet on April 16. The one optional fee not approved was the Distance Learning Fee. Mr. Rutledge invited Dr. Edwin Craft to Cabinet to clear up any miscommunication on the fee. Dr. Craft stated the Distance Learning Fee will help purchase and maintain software related to online learning. Some of the software used in online learning will overlap with traditional learning such as Canvas. Due to the increased demand of online programs and courses for the university, additional technology has also been demanded. The Distance Learning Fee will provide technology and training that will help faculty teach online and improve the quality of our online courses. Any student taking an online course will be assessed a \$5 fee per credit hour. Dr. Craft stated other universities charge as much as \$75 per credit hour for an online course. One of the initial uses of the Distance Learning Fee will be to purchase a site license for Zoom to provide professors with a synchronous learning system to video conference in real time with students and to pay for the increase in fees to maintain Canvas. Additional funds from the Distance Learning Fee will go towards purchasing software programs such as ScreenCast O’Matic, Video Scribe, Voice Thread, and Adobe Cloud. The money received from the Distance Learning Fee will go into a designated fund to be managed by the Office of Information Technology. *see handout

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the Distance Learning Fee at \$5 per credit hour for FY19 and seconded by Dr. McAdams. The motion was approved.

Phase II Budget Requests Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge stated the next phase of budget requests is Phase II, new and expanded activities. Executive Committee members took the list of new and expanded activities and divided it into two categories: one-time purchases and on-going funding. The Executive Committee prioritized the list of one-time purchases; however, there are no funds at this time to purchase any of the items. Purchases will be made, in priority order, as funds become available. The goal is fund the first ten priorities during the year. *see handout

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to adopt the New and Expanded Activities priority list to be funded when funds become available and seconded by Mr. Mayers. The motion was approved.

Discussion

Budget Process Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge announced the performance evaluations are due May 17 to Human Resources as to allow Human Resources and Payroll adequate time to input the merit-based salary raises approved by Cabinet Members last week. Mr. Rutledge reminded Cabinet members that Phase III – Ongoing operations budget

requests are due next week. Mr. Rutledge will bring the Annual Operating Budget to Cabinet on May 22 for approval so that he can submit the budget to IHL by May 31.

Commencement.....Dr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams informed Cabinet Members that 495 students applied to graduate this spring, and 405 students declared their intent to participate in the commencement ceremonies on Saturday. Doctoral candidates, Educational Specialist candidates, Masters’ degree candidates, and Baccalaureate candidates for the College of Business and Aviation and the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing will graduate during the first ceremony at 10:00 a.m. Baccalaureate candidates for the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education and Human Sciences will graduate during the second ceremony at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Roberts reminded the platform party of the pre-gathering event, which will be held in the Green Room in the BPAC beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Additional information:

- Ms. Rocconi reminded Cabinet Members the Wayne Blansett Staff Development Day is scheduled for Thursday, May 17. The program during the morning session will focus on an employee’s mind, body, and spirit. A few featured speakers include Ms. Tricia Killebrew and Dr. Beals.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Dancing with the DSU Stars, April 30, 7:00 p.m., BPAC
- Spring Commencement, May 5, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Tuesday, May 22 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:44 p.m.