

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: August 23, 2021

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

Members not in attendance: Mr. Rick Munroe and Dr. Michelle Roberts

Guests: Mr. Daniel Black, Chief Justice, SGA
Mr. Joshua Davis, Treasurer, SGA
Ms. Isabella Escobedo, Director of Student Representatives, SGA
Ms. Lucia Habis, Director of Public Relations, SGA
Ms. Sarah Elizabeth Hardy, Attorney General, SGA
Ms. Madison Lavoie, Director of International Affairs, SGA
Ms. Peyton Perry, Director of Student Services, SGA
Ms. Morgan Roehm, Vice President, SGA
Mr. Bryer Weast, Chief of Staff, SGA

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on August 23, 2021. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Mr. Young presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Mr. Rutledge, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on August 16, 2021.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. He participated in the weekly conference call with Dr. Al Rankins and the Institutional Executive Officers to discuss COVID-19 related issues. Mr. James Forte met with President LaForge to provide an update on the planning of Pig Pickin'. President LaForge, Dr. Novobilski, and Mr. Munroe had a cultivation lunch with a donor last week. The Institutional Executive Officers and Chief Academic Officers had a joint conference call to discuss dual enrollment. President LaForge filmed a segment of Statesmen Insider with Mr. Andy Robertson and Mr. Mattis Kloepper regarding men's soccer. President LaForge attended the Music Department's first Faculty Recital last week featuring Dr. Bret Pimentel. The IHL Board of Trustees met via Zoom last week, and they approved Delta State's request to contract with Mayo Mallette PLLC as outside counsel for the creation of an MOU with the development firm for the golf course. President LaForge had lunch with Commissioner Willie Simmons and several Blues artists on Saturday to discuss the future of Blues and music in the Delta. He also attended the "Route to America's Music Festival" in Ruleville. Dr. Lovin gave a recap of Welcome Week activities. President LaForge attended the football

team's scrimmage on Saturday, and he spoke to the team afterwards. The Epsilon Xi Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. hosted their 70th Year Celebration "Live on Leflore" block. Delta State alumna Debbie Brock was inducted into the National Women's Basketball Hall of Fame over the weekend. President LaForge shared with Cabinet members the sad news of the passing of community leader Mr. Homer Sledge Jr.

- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Renovations in Cain-Tatum Hall, Fugler-Hammett Hall, and Lawler-Harkins Hall are 95% complete. The remainder of the renovations cannot be completed until the roofing project is complete. The start date of the roofing project was delayed again due to not being able to secure the needed materials. The project will begin on September 16. The elevator project continues across campus. The elevator in Broom Hall is complete, and the next building on the list is the Nowell Union. Mr. Rutledge is set to receive this week recommendations from an architect on possible renovation ideas for Foundation Hall. He is going to share those recommendations with EC upon receiving them. The project will go out for bid in January and construction/work will begin later in the spring. Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet members the university plans to use Repair and Renovation funds to repair the parking lot behind Fugler-Hammett Hall. The university is applying for a second Mississippi Department of Transportation grant to replace the remaining sidewalks on campus.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The men's and women's soccer teams have each competed in two exhibition games thus far with the men winning both and the women winning one. Each team will compete in their third exhibition game this week. The men's soccer team travels to William Carey University on Tuesday, and the women's soccer team hosts Millsaps College on Saturday. The cross country competes in their first race on Friday at Mississippi College. The football team has their first game a week from Thursday against Bethel University at home. Mr. Kinnison stated the Athletic Department has no restrictions on seating or attendance due to COVID-19. Mr. Kinnison asked the SGA Cabinet members in attendance to encourage the student body to attend athletic events and show their support.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. President LaForge had lunch with President Emeritus Kent Wyatt today and provided him with a campus update. President LaForge will begin teaching his Leadership Seminar class tomorrow evening. The Foundation's next Vision event is scheduled for Thursday, and will be hosted by Mr. Joe Baker and Ms. Margaret Ferriss White in Madison.

CABINET TOPIC

SGA Cabinet to President's Cabinet..... Dr. Lovin and Mr. Young

Dr. Lovin and Mr. Young invited the SGA Cabinet to a weekly Cabinet meeting to discuss with the President's Cabinet the issues at the forefront of students' minds. President LaForge asked the SGA Cabinet:

- What areas of the university work well?
- What areas of the university aren't working well?
- Are there any issues on campus that need the Cabinet's immediate attention?
- What do the students want to see on campus?

The SGA Cabinet spoke freely on student events; academics; housing policies; lack of ease in obtaining information relevant to students on the Delta State website; mental health of students; and, much more.

BUSINESS

Action

Alcohol Policy (revised – first reading) Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge brought the revised Alcohol Policy to Cabinet for a first reading. The current Alcohol Policy prohibits the purchase, sale, and consumption of alcoholic beverages on university property unless the President has given written consent and consumption can only occur in certain buildings and areas. With the Cabinet’s recent approval of the Athletics Department being able to sell beer and light wine at their sporting events, the policy needed to be revised. The policy revisions derive from the alcohol policy set forth by the Athletics Department and sister institutions. Delta State University prohibits the unlawful possession, sale, distribution, and consumption of alcohol on university property or as part of any university activity. All students, employees, and visitors must comply with all applicable laws, regulations, IHL policies, and university policies regarding the possession, sale, distribution, and consumption of alcohol. Beer or light wine may be sold only in certain, designated stationary locations approved by the President. The sale of beer or light wine is prohibited in administrative, academic, and student-designated buildings. Any sale of beer or light wine will not be permitted after a specified stop time listed within the policy. Cabinet members requested the definitions be in alphabetical order. Also, Cabinet members requested adding softball and baseball to the list of sports by which a stop time for the sale of alcohol could be later due to a double header.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the revised Alcohol policy and waive the second reading and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion was approved.

Discussion

Campus Parking Action Plan Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin shared with Cabinet members the Campus Parking Action Plan. All aspects of the Campus Parking Action Plan are in effect.

Parking on campus:

- Parking in employee zones opens to all at 3:00 p.m.
- Parking in commuter zones opens to all at 2:00 p.m.
- The parking lot to the north of Jobe Hall is designated a swing lot for employees and commuters.
- Parking in front of the Student Union be signed for 20-minute parking, possibly metered for all use.
- Parking spaces on the west side of the H. L. Nowell Union are designated handicap spaces and guest parking spaces for food services.
- Parking spaces on the south side of the H. L. Nowell Union to the Student Health Services Center are to remain exclusively for faculty. The parking along Washington Street, between Student Health and the corner of Washington and Coahoma are a combination of commuter and employee parking spaces.
- New enhanced signage is in development to help prevent signage being unseen because of parked vehicles.
- Additional parking resources are under consideration for Ewing Hall and Caylor-White-Walters Hall.

Parking permits:

- Permit (decal) sales are being paid by debit or credit card at the point of purchase on the new Parking Portal.

- A temporary \$2.50 surcharge is added to each sale to handle administrative fees with handling debit and credit card payments.
- The Police Department is considering a permit fee increase in for FY23 to \$50.00 to account for permit cost increases, software fees and additional parking improvements such as meters or restricted parking barriers.
- The portal began operation August 1, 2021 using the UPD Parking page on the Delta State website.
- New employees and students have a grace period for purchasing permits until Labor Day.
 - The week following Labor Day, a report of all student and employee permit purchases will be run to compare to the list of enrolled students from Student Business Services and an employee list from Human Resources. A targeted email will be sent to persons who have not purchased a permit from the master lists compared to the purchased lists.
 - During the first week of October, a certified letter will be sent to students or employees who have not responded to previous requests to purchase a permit or provide proof on not parking on campus.
 - During the last week in October, a list for those employees or students with four or more “no permit” citations will be created. New software will alert officers writing a citation to previous violations and when a vehicle become eligible to have a boot placed on it.

Student Incentives for COVID-19 VaccinationsDr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin shared with Cabinet members a list of incentives for employees and students to submit their COVID-19 vaccination card. The incentives include gift cards, t-shirts, an Apple iPad, Apple AirPods Pro, a Spring 2022 tuition waiver, and a \$1,000 cash prize. The incentives are a way to encourage faculty, staff, and students to get vaccinated and to submit their vaccination card. Partially and fully vaccinated students, faculty, and staff are eligible for vaccine incentives. Both student and employee contest submissions are managed through the vaccine submission secure portal. The contest begins September 2, at 12 p.m. CST and ends September 30, 2021 at 12 p.m. CST. Drawing time and dates will be 12 p.m. CST on each weekday. Only entries received prior to the drawing time and dates will be considered. Cabinet members discussed the lack of information around campus about vaccine availability. Dr. Lovin will work with his staff and CommMark staff to increase communication regarding the availability of the vaccine.

Enrollment UpdateDr. Lovin and Dr. Novobilski

Dr. Lovin provided Cabinet members with an update on enrollment. As of August 23, 1,816 undergraduate students, 724 graduate students, and 126 Dual Enrollment students have registered for Fall 2021. There are 2,027 full-time students registered, and 639 part-time students registered. The amount of tuition for which the university budgeted in FY22 is short by approximately \$800,000 or 300 students. Unless enrollment increases, the university will face some challenges. President LaForge stated the Executive Committee will begin to assess enrollment in a new way. He wants the university to know prior to Christmas the approximate enrollment for Fall 2022.

Additional Information:

- Mr. Kinnison announced the resignation of Head Golf Coach Easton Key.
- Dr. Novobilski sent an email to the Delta State community thanking our veterans for their services. Due to the ongoing current events, the university is mindful of the impact they have on all who have served, there is a special concern for those women and men whose duty brought them to Afghanistan. Mr. Jerry Wiley, the Mississippi VA Field Service Officer serving Delta State, provided the a set of resources available through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Also, Delta State’s Campus Counseling Center is open to faculty, staff, and students.

- Mr. Young announced SGA is in the process of creating a survey for students to seek out programming wants and ideas.
- Ms. Wallace reminded Cabinet members the OkraWorks Part-Time Job Fair is Wednesday. Currently, we will have 10 local employers and 10 on-campus employers present.
- Mr. Rutledge announced the transition within the Office of Information Technology is going well. The department has hired a data person to work virtually.
- Mr. Rutledge announced Mr. Kelvin Davis recently graduated as a certified Higher Education Official.
- Mr. Rutledge announced the Young-Mauldin Cafeteria served 285 people at lunch on Sunday. Of the 285 patrons, 120 were community members.
- Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet members the HVAC and plumbing departments within Facilities Management are short staffed due to COVID-19. Contactors will be on call to fill in as needed.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Okra Works Part-Time Job Fair, August 25, 1:00 p.m., H.L. Nowell Union
- Employee Benefits Fair, August 24, 10:00 a.m., H.L. Nowell Union
- Delta State football vs. Bethel University, September 2, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field
- Labor Day Holiday, September 6
- Pig Pickin', September 10-11
- Undergraduate Admissions Preview Day, September 11
- Delta State football vs. McKendree University, September 11, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field
- Constitution Day, September 16, Time – TBD, Jobe Hall Auditorium, Speaker – Dr. Ben Wright

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, August 30, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.