

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: February 6, 2017**

**Members in attendance:** President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Dr. Leslie Griffin  
Dr. Chris Jurgenson, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams,  
Ms. Allie Rose Parker, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Ms. Christie Rocconi,  
and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

**Members not in attendance:** Mr. Keith Fulcher

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on February 6, 2017. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Dr. Jurgenson, seconded by Dr. Bennett, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on January 30, 2017.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- Dr. Bennett informed Cabinet that Interim Chief of Police Jeffrey Johns has been hired as the new Chief of Police. He was one of two very qualified candidates. The other candidate was from Central State University. Both candidates participated in an interview process including forums, meetings with the Cleveland Chief of Police and the Bolivar County Sheriff, and with Dr. Bennett. Dr. Bennett stated Chief Johns has made great strides in a short time, and she commended him for requesting a reduced salary in order to increase the salary of his sergeants.
- Mr. Rutledge stated the Health Services ribbon cutting ceremony was a nice event. Delta State has asked Bolivar Medical Center to come back to the table to renegotiate students having to pay for services. Mr. Rutledge stated many benefits will be made available to the university including CPR certification classes, on-call nurse twenty-four hours a day, and a nurse practitioner stationed at the Health Center.
- President LaForge attended the Alonzo King LINES Ballet at BPAC and An Evening with Bobby Rush at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi last week. He stated both were great events and well attended.
- President LaForge visited Coahoma Community College and Hernando High School last week during a recruiting visit. During his visit with Hernando High School, Desoto County Superintendent and Delta State alumnus, Cory Uselton stopped by to see President LaForge.
- President LaForge was asked last week for recommendations for the IHL Board of Trustees vacancy. President LaForge has given a recommendation, and this person will be considered.
- The Campaign Strategy Study Committee met last week to review Delta State's initial proposal of campaign priorities. The Foundation staff and consultants are reworking the proposal and list of priorities. An updated document will be shared with Cabinet Members at a later date.
- President LaForge welcomed students attending the HOSA Northern District Leadership Conference last week. Dr. McAdams believes it was a great event and a good recruiting tool for Delta State.

- President LaForge hosted his Friday Faculty meetings last Friday. His meetings included a meeting with Mr. Don Allan Mitchell regarding an update on the Languages and Literature department, a meeting with Ms. Tricia Walker and Mr. Charley Abraham to discuss the need for an additional faculty member for DMI, and Dr. Sujung Cho to discuss her leaving Delta State.
- President LaForge met with Mr. Bill Lester last week to discuss a Dockery Farms Board member sponsoring a reception for up to fifty people for Mavis Staples’ honorary degree dinner.
- President LaForge spoke with Dr. Aubrey Lucas about University of Southern Mississippi’s orchestra performing at Delta State with Jimmy Buffett and Mac McAnally for a benefit concert to support the “Extra Table” program to feed the hungry. They are working with BPAC staff to schedule the event.
- The *Mississippi Business Journal* released an article last week penned by Mr. Bill Crawford regarding university enrollment costing taxpayers. Mr. Crawford’s article tries to persuade readers that universities are using taxpayers’ money to recruit out of state students. President LaForge has asked Dr. Glenn Boyce if the system will respond to this article.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. The baseball team won all three away games and the softball team won two games over the weekend. The men’s basketball team won on Saturday and both basketball teams play tonight against Mississippi College. During half time of the men’s game, all student athletes with a 3.0 GPA or higher for the fall semester will be recognized.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the week. On Tuesday, he travels to Washington County for recruiting visits, and he will attend a meeting with Mr. Ron Nurnberg and the new TFA leadership team. President and Mrs. LaForge leave on Wednesday for GRAMMY Week in Los Angeles. On Sunday, President and Mrs. LaForge will attend a live broadcast of the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual GRAMMY Awards at GRAMMY Museum Mississippi.

**CABINET TOPIC**

**Visioning Goals .....Dr. McAdams, Mr. Rutledge, Mr. Mayers, Dr. Roberts, and Dr. Bennett**  
 President LaForge explained this would be the time for his direct reports to share with Cabinet Members their goals and strategies as part of the development of the Visioning Principles. President LaForge will discuss the progress of these goals during his monthly meetings with his direct reports. Dr. McAdams, Mr. Rutledge, Mr. Mayers, Dr. Roberts, and Dr. Bennett shared their goals with Cabinet Members (*\*See attachments*). President LaForge asked each of his direct reports to share their goals within their departments in order to strengthen programs and inspire constituencies. President LaForge asked Dr. Jurgenson, Ms. Parker, and Ms. Rocconi to take Principle # 9 - Core Values, and apply it to their respective areas of faculty, students, and staff. He asked them to present to the Cabinet at a later date their visioning goals, using the Visioning template.

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

**Faculty Rights and Responsibilities (final reading) .....Dr. McAdams**  
 Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities policy, on recommendation and approval of Academic Council, for a final reading. The policy was amended to state that faculty members teaching online courses must publish the course no later than 12:01 a.m. of the first day of class of each term the course is offered. All members of Academic Council were in favor of making this an expectation of faculty members.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the Faculty Rights and Responsibilities policy for a final reading and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. **This motion was approved.**

**Days and Hours Worked Policy (first reading)..... Mr. Rutledge**

Mr. Rutledge brought to Cabinet the Days and Hours Worked policy for a first reading. On recommendation from the IHL Board legal counsel, Mr. Rutledge has revised the policy statement for better clarity. The policy states work takes place on campus or at a Delta State University authorized facility during the university’s normal hours of operations, unless job duties require otherwise. Department heads may alter and schedule working hours according to the needs of the department with the approval from Human Resources. Mr. Rutledge left the working hours flexible as working hours during the summer have been altered in the past.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the Days and Hours Worked policy for a first reading and seconded by Mr. Mayers. **This motion was approved.**

**Discussion**

**Bicentennial Proposal ..... President LaForge**

President LaForge met with Dr. Karen Fosheim, Chair of the Department of Music, and a member of her faculty to discuss their proposal for hosting a Mississippi Bicentennial Gala on Delta State’s campus during Pig Pickin’. Dr. Fosheim has received a \$10,000 grant to fund the gala. She is not asking for any institutional money and has formed a committee to plan the event. President LaForge stated it sounds like a great event, but he wants to make sure it doesn’t interfere with any Pig Pickin’ functions.

**Budget Update ..... Mr. Rutledge**

Mr. Rutledge has had several conversations with Mr. John Pearce, CFO at IHL, and Mr. Pearce is certain an additional cut of \$180,000 to \$200,000 will occur in April, as well as another three percent cut to the FY18 budget. Mr. Rutledge believes the measures established to offset the current FY17 cuts will cover the projected cuts for April. A three percent cut for FY18 would reduce our budget by approximately \$639,000. The five percent increase in tuition for FY18 will help offset the mid-year budget cuts for FY17. Mr. Rutledge stated the Executive Committee will begin working to consider ways to address the possible three percent cut for FY18.

**Legislative Update ..... Dr. Roberts**

Dr. Roberts gave Cabinet Members an update on the Legislative session. Delta State’s Land Lease bill was passed out of the House of Representatives last week and will be sent to the Senate for the same process. The bill has until Thursday to get through the Senate chamber. President LaForge will give a report to the Board of Alderman and Supervisors soon to talk with them about this project as well as other projects taking place on campus. Dr. Roberts informed Cabinet Members that Ms. Parker took members of her Cabinet to Jackson last week to visit the Capitol and to have lunch with local delegation. Our local delegation was very impressed with our students. The annual Student Lunch with Legislators will be held on February 16.

**Other Discussion**

- Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet Members that IHL doesn’t not have any additional funding to help offset the cost of the recertification of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Dr. Roberts informed Cabinet Members that Ms. Mary Ruth Phillips will serve as Delta State’s appointee to the Team Cleveland Board, replacing Ms. Robin Boyles who left Delta State in December.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- SGA's State of the Student Address, February 13, 5:30 pm, State Room
- DSU Jazz Band Big Band Bash, Cleveland Country Club, February 17, 7:00 pm
- STOMP performance, BPAC, February 28, 7:30 pm

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, February 13 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.