

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: January 23, 2023

Members in attendance: Dr. E. E. Caston, Dr. Joshua Armstrong, Dr. Caroline Fletcher, Ms. Lucia Chacon Habis, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Mr. Rick Munroe, Dr. Andy Novobilski, and Mr. Larry Wakefield (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Leslie Griffin and Dr. Michelle Roberts

Guests: Dr. Edwin Craft, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration
Mr. Kelvin Davis, Director of Financial Reporting, University Accounting
Dr. James Gerald, Dean, Graduate and Honor Studies

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on January 23, 2023. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Caston presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Dr. Armstrong, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on January 9, 2023.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Edwin Craft was invited to the Cabinet meeting to recognize Mr. Kelvin Davis for a recent honor bestowed to him. Mr. Davis was selected as a 2022 recipient of *Mississippi Business Journal's* Leaders in Finance.
- Dr. Caston gave an overview of the activities and events from the last couple of weeks. The Department of Music hosted the Honor Band Weekend. The IHL Board of Trustees met last week for their monthly meeting. The BPAC Spring season began with a showing of Menopause the Musical. Dr. Caston and Mr. Wakefield met with Mayor Billy Nowell and Mr. Josh McPherson of Eley McPherson Engineering to discuss water drainage issues on Bishop Road.
- Mr. Kinnison provided an update on Athletics. The men's and women's basketball teams were defeated on the road against University of West Florida and Valdosta State University. Both teams will host Montevallo University and Auburn University-Montgomery on Thursday and Saturday, respectively. The swimming and diving teams competed against Emory University last weekend. Their meet against Rhodes College was cancelled for this weekend. Spring sports begin in 12 days. The GSC Board of Directors meet this week, and they will vote on adding a provisional member for football only.
- Mr. Wakefield shared an update on Facilities projects. A contractor reviewed the roof of Kent Wyatt Hall, and a problem was discovered. The problem will be resolved soon.
- Dr. Caston shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. Dr. Caston, Dr. Novobilski, and Mr. Munroe met with representatives from Casey Family Programs this morning. The Campaign Steering Committee will meet on Wednesday.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

Process and timeline for class cancellation (purge)Dr. Caston

Dr. Caston shared the revised process and timeline for class cancellation (purge) process. The process and timeline were revised to ensure a fair and equitable process that is in the best interest of the students affected. The class cancellation (purge) process began at 1:00 p.m. today, and Student Business Services will contact those students affected to work with them on arrangements for payment. Students have until the end of day on Tuesday, January 24 to make payment arrangements and re-enroll in their classes. Additional conversations will occur going forward on how best to streamline the process and choose which person or office will deliver all communication. To provide additional time for all involved offices to help students with the payment process, the Academic Calendar will be revised to start classes the Tuesday after Martin Luther King Day. Dr. Novobilski will bring a revised Academic Calendar to Cabinet for approval.

Institutional Effectiveness and PlanningDr. Novobilski

Dr. Novobilski announced the first Strategic Plan Steering Committee meeting is Friday, January 27, 2023.

Legislative Update.....Mr. Munroe

Mr. Munroe provided an update on the Mississippi Legislative Session. On January 17, Commissioner Al Rankins and the Institutional Executive Officers presented the IHL budget request to the Appropriations Subcommittees in the Senate and House of Representatives. Dr. Novobilski and Mr. Munroe had a meeting with Representative Briggs Hopson and Senator Sarita Simmons. Mr. Munroe shared with Cabinet members some issues facing potential increases in appropriations: PERS deficit; rising insurance costs; and inflation. Some legislation topics being tracked by IHL are: nursing educator incentives; alternative educator certification paths; dual enrollment and dual credit descriptions; and, the use of TikTok. Student Government Association presidents visited the Capitol last week to meet with Senators and Representatives.

Additional Information

- Dr. Caston shared with Cabinet members that Delta State will co-host the "Drug Trends and The Impact of Drug Overdoses in Mississippi Communities" event on February 16 in the BPAC.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Bolivar County Alumni Night at Statesmen/Lady Statesmen Basketball Games, January 26, 5:30 p.m., Walter Sillers Coliseum
- Peyton Aldridge with Mark Collie and Morgan Myles, January 28, 7:00 p.m., BPAC
- Blue Man Group, February 7, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Statesmen Sweethearts Valentines Social, February 10, 6:00 p.m., Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, February 6, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.