

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: July 12, 2021

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

Members not in attendance: Dr. Vicki Bingham, Mr. Mike Kinnison, and Dr. Andrew Wegmann

Guests: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on July 12, 2021. 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. Lovin, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on July 6, 2021.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. The Bolivar County Bar Association and U.S. District Court hosted a portrait hanging ceremony and reception in celebration of the life of Mr. Robert G. Johnston. President LaForge participated in a conference call with IHL staff and the other Institutional Executive Officers (IEOs) from the regional universities to discuss dual enrollment. IHL plans to host another meeting with all IEOs and Chief Academic Officers soon. President LaForge had lunch with Dr. Kent Wyatt and Dr. Ned Mitchell to discuss community relations and provide an update on activities at the university. President LaForge participated in a conference call with Dr. Thomas Dobbs, IEOs, and IHL Staff to discuss COVID-19 plans for "Back to School." Delta State's Kappa Delta alumni hosted a reunion over the weekend, and President LaForge invited them to a reception at his home.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The campus-wide elevator project is delayed due to an issue with materials being delivered on time. The elevator in the Roberts-LaForge Library will be complete this week. Mr. Rutledge will attend the walk-through for the punch list of Cain-Tatum Hall and Fugler-Hammett Hall on July 29. Mr. Rutledge plans to schedule a meeting this week to commence the construction documents for the School of Nursing, and they should be complete in two to three months. Upon completion of the construction documents, IHL will approve them prior to bids going out in January. Delta State received \$3 million this year in bond funds that will be used to fund the renovation of Foundation Hall. The University will receive another \$3 million in bond funds in the fall for other residence hall renovations. Mr. Rutledge plans to schedule a meeting with the architect, Mr. Gerald Finley, Ms. Julie Jackson, and Dr. Lovin to discuss the needs for the residence halls. Facilities Management is working on refreshing the residence halls in preparation for student arrival in August.

- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. President LaForge welcomed attendees of the Mississippi Counseling Association Leadership Training meeting this morning. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce will kick-off their Speaker Series on Thursday with Mississippi State University President Mark Keenum. The Wayne Blansett Staff Development Day is scheduled for Thursday. President LaForge will host a reception for members of the Tri Delta Alumni Reunion group on Friday. The Foundation's Green and White Gala will take place on Saturday. The next Cabinet meeting will take place on Monday, July 26 due to next week's Cabinet Advance.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

Cabinet Advance..... Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts gave Cabinet Members an overview of the agenda for the Cabinet Advance, which is scheduled for Tuesday, July 20 and Wednesday, July 21. The Cabinet Advance will be held at the President's home. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served on site at 7:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. respectively. The discussions will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. Discussion topics include a budget snapshot; the campus master plan and golf course; a tour of the residence halls; fundraising and capital campaign; COVID-19 plans for Fall 2021; enrollment management; a 360° review of the areas of the new vice presidents; Cabinet topics for 2021-22 and, key calendar items. Dr. Roberts stated the Advance will give Cabinet members an opportunity to unplug from their daily responsibilities and to dig deeper into topics than time allows during a regular Cabinet meeting.

Additional information

- Dr. Lovin will draft a memo to the campus, for review by EC on Thursday, regarding Delta State's new COVID-19 Coordinator, services of the Health Center, etc.
- Mr. Rutledge plans to set a meeting between Dr. Steven Clark, Dr. Lovin, and himself. He wants Dr. Lovin to meet Dr. Clark so that Dr. Lovin has direct access to Dr. Clark for the university's COVID-19 questions.
- Mr. Munroe stated they are expecting 100-120 people to attend the Green and White Foundation Gala on Saturday. He invited Cabinet members to attend.
- Dr. Novobilski shared with Cabinet members that the deans and department chairs are struggling to fill some of the vacancies within their colleges and departments.
- Dr. Novobilski informed Cabinet members that Bailey Hall needs directional signs for the Student Success Center. Dr. Novobilski will work with Mr. Rutledge on this need.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Wayne Blansett Staff Development Day, July 15

- Green and White Foundation Gala, July 17, 6:00 p.m., The Lyric Hotel
- Cabinet Advance, July 20-21, President's Home
- Jackson Area Alumni meeting, July 22
- Orientation Session #5, July 27
- Delta Legislative Tour, August 4

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, July 26 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.