

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: July 5, 2016

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

Members not in attendance: Allie Rose Parker

Guests: Ms. Marilyn Read, Chair, Administrative Staff Council
Mr. Mikel Sykes, Past President, Student Government Association
Mr. Hunter Webb, Attorney General, Student Government Association
Dr. Kent Wyatt, President Emeritus

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on July 5, 2016. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Mayers, seconded by Dr. Bennett, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on June 27, 2016.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge welcomed Mr. Hunter Webb. Mr. Webb is the Attorney General of the Student Government Association, and is attending the Cabinet meeting for Ms. Parker.
- President LaForge recognized outgoing and incoming Cabinet Members: Academic Council representative, Dr. Libby Carlson (outgoing) and Dr. Leslie Griffin (incoming); Faculty Senate President, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart (outgoing) and Dr. Chris Jurgenson (incoming); Staff Council Chair, Ms. Marilyn Read (outgoing) and Ms. Christie Rocconi (incoming); SGA President, Mr. Mikel Sykes (outgoing) and Ms. Allie Rose Parker (incoming). Ms. Read stated she has enjoyed her two years on Cabinet and will miss working with everyone. Mr. Sykes said his time on the Cabinet was a great learning experience. President LaForge expressed his gratitude to the outgoing members for the service they provided.
- President LaForge asked Dr. Bennett to give an update on Orientation. Dr. Bennett stated the sessions are very organized and are going well. She would like to see student involvement in the afternoon breakout sessions in order for them to gain knowledge and understanding of Delta State's different departments on campus.
- The events surrounding the opening of the new exhibit at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi went well. President LaForge stated the "Pride and Joy: The Texas Blues of Stevie Ray Vaughan" exhibit is a great second feature for the Museum.
- Summer Session II began today, and President LaForge asked Dr. McAdams to give an update on

enrollment for the second summer term. Dr. McAdams stated enrollment for Summer Session II is up slightly from last year. This figure will not be definite until after the purge date on July 6. The revenue stream for Summer Session I and II is up due to timely payments before the purge date.

- President LaForge met with the members of the Chinese delegation, who are on campus for the two-week Summer Development Camp. This is the first step in moving forward with our partnership with the three Chinese universities. Dr. McAdams stated this group of faculty members is from the Anyang Institute of Technology in China and are primarily business faculty. These faculty members are here to learn about U.S. universities and gain pedagogical training. Dr. McAdams is hopeful the faculty will enjoy their experience enough to encourage their students to attend Delta State. President LaForge is hosting a dinner for these guests, along with community members, on Wednesday evening to welcome them to Delta State.
- The Hotel Task Force is scheduled to meet on Wednesday with the proposing group to discuss their thoughts for a boutique hotel on Delta State’s campus. President LaForge stated the group is prepared to address all concerns. A report on Delta State’s conferences/events needing overnight accommodations will be ready for the meeting on Wednesday.
- The Legislative Facilities Tour is scheduled for Friday. Mr. Rutledge has planned for a lunch and presentation for the members of the Bureau of Buildings and legislators. The presentation will show where we are now and where we want to be in the future with our facilities projects. After the presentation, a tour will be given to show completed projects, approved projects (Zeigel and Young-Mauldin), and projects we want to begin (President’s home).

CABINET TOPIC

University Visioning..... President LaForge

President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members his initial thoughts and plans for Delta State’s vision. He explained his thoughts are a summation of the work the entire campus put forth during the Visioning exercises led by each of the President’s direct reports. He reminded Cabinet Members that the Visioning process will not replace Delta State’s vision statement; rather, the visioning process is used to bring clarity to the aspirations of the campus. President LaForge outlined ten building blocks (*see attachments*) to help shape the future of Delta State. These building blocks are in draft form and can be molded to fit the larger picture, as needed. In order to reach the level of excellence desired, priorities must be established. Decisions and funding must be consistent with those priorities. Once priorities are in place, strategies can be created to move us further down the path to excellence. Possible “big think” ideas for the future are: a boutique hotel on campus; repurposing Hugh White Hall into a welcome center or Center for Excellence; adding new programs; renewed focus on the four academic colleges; adding intercollegiate sports, such as women’s golf and volleyball; and, creating a leadership academy for local government officials. After further discussion at the Cabinet Advance, President LaForge will unveil the results of the Visioning process to the campus during his State of the University Address in August.

FY17 Budget Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge presented a report on Delta State’s budget situation. The E&G Operating budget for FY17 is \$45,909,952 and is made up of approximately \$20 million in tuition, \$22 million in State appropriations, and \$3 million from other sources, such as grants and private gifts. Delta State’s largest expenditure is salaries/wages, making up 71% of the budget. With the State not providing additional appropriations this year, Mr. Rutledge and his staff worked diligently to find funds for our facility needs, new and expanded activities, and other necessities across campus. Delta State will have \$1,127,094 in available funds as a result of the modest increase in tuition, reducing bad debt and

money allocated to general institutional funds, an increase in capital improvement fees, salary savings from the three positions that were eliminated as a result of the program cuts in 2015, and savings from the outsourcing of the Student Health Center. President LaForge and the Executive Committee allocated \$581,911 of the available funds for market raises and \$545,183 for new positions and programs. President LaForge hopes to be able to provide raises for all employees in FY18. Upon approval from the IHL Board of Trustees, we will increase tuition by 5% for FY18 in order to allocate funds for raises—dependent upon the State’s budget situation. President LaForge thanked Mr. Rutledge for his hard work and dedication throughout the budget process. Through his efforts, the University is able to start new programs and initiatives that reflect our priorities. *See attachment.

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

Organizational Chart: 2016-17 Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts presented the final draft of the organizational chart. This version will be the official organizational chart for FY17, and will be published on Delta State’s website.

Other Discussion

- President LaForge asked Mr. Fulcher to share exciting news from the Foundation. Mr. Fulcher stated the Gertrude Ford Foundation made a donation of \$100,000 to the unrestricted fund. He also said the DSU Foundation Board is committed to raising \$300,000 of unrestricted funds for Delta State.
- President LaForge stated that the process of transferring retirees to the new email system has been a smooth transition. He asked Cabinet Members to report any complaints/issues to Mr. Rutledge or Mr. Edwin Craft. Mr. Rutledge said he has received positive feedback about the new system. The retirees are appreciative of the Microsoft Office package now included with their new email address.
- President LaForge announced Ms. Emily Jones will be the new liaison for the Dedicated Statesmen Association, replacing Mr. Gary Bouse who will focus on the upcoming Capital Campaign.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Freshmen Orientation IV, July 7-8
- Cabinet Advance, July 18-19, Jacks Barnhouse
- Convocation, August 19, 10:00 a.m., BPAC
- Convocation lunch, August 19, 12:00 pm, H.L. Nowell Union, Second floor lobbies

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Tuesday, July 11, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Cabinet Advance preparation (President LaForge)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m.