

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: June 10, 2019

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Beverly Moon, Mr. Rick Munroe, Mr. Cetin Oguz, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, and Ms. Elizabeth Swindle (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Ms. Tricia Killebrew

Guests: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on June 10, 2019. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rutledge and seconded by Ms. Swindle, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on May 28, 2019.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from the past couple of weeks. President LaForge, Mr. Kinnison, Ms. Dana George, and Mr. Tim Colbert represented Delta State at the GSC Annual meeting. Dr. Bennett informed Cabinet members the first Orientation session was outstanding and well attended. 179 students were in attendance. Student Affairs staff are calling 142 students, those who have paid their housing application fee, this week to recommend registering for one of the last two orientation sessions. President and Mrs. LaForge attended the funeral service for Senator Thad Cochran last Tuesday, and the Office of Student Affairs hosted a surprise retirement reception for Ms. Christie Rocconi. President LaForge met with Dr. Temika Simmons to discuss the Winning the Race Conference, and President LaForge met with Mr. Bill Hedges whose grandfather was recognized as one of the founding members of Delta State. President LaForge met with Mayor Billy Nowell to discuss campus projects, and the Executive Committee met with potential vendors for the golf course development. Delta Council hosted their Annual Meeting last Friday, and Dr. David Abney served as their keynote speaker. President LaForge attended a reception in his honor on Thursday evening, and he attended a dinner hosted by Mr. Scott Coopwood in honor of Entergy CEO Mr. Haley Fisackerly. President and Mrs. LaForge attended the Delta Soul Fundraiser for Mr. Steve Azar's foundation on Friday evening and the MIAL Awards Banquet on Saturday.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. He shared his decision to step down as Head Coach of the baseball team and focus solely on his role as Athletic Director. He stated he has been blessed to coach the baseball team for 26 years, and he thanked President LaForge and Cabinet members for allowing him to make this decision in his own time. The process to fill the Head Coach position will begin

immediately. All sports have finished for the season, and the Athletics Department remains busy with eligibility and compliance meetings during the summer months.

- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on facilities projects. The Walter Sillers Coliseum project has been postponed until a notice to proceed arrives. The roofing project re-advertisement will be issued on June 11 and 18, and the bids for the project will be accepted on July 11. A pre-bid meeting for the dectron units for the Aquatics Center will be held this week. The Hill Apartments will be completed by June 24. The next locations for the lighting project will be Brumby Castle Hall and Walter Sillers Coliseum. Construction on the President’s home will begin with the removal of twelve trees from the lot. The trees included seven oak, three Bradford pear, and two pecan. The trees had rotted and otherwise deteriorated. With regards to the golf course development, the chosen vendor will conduct a feasibility study to ensure their proposal will be reasonable for this area. After approval by IHL, the Executive Committee, and the Cabinet, Delta State will enter into a contract with the vendor.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. President LaForge will meet with Dr. Shelley Collins and Mr. Chip Mitchell to discuss the International Conference on the Blues and the Major Foundations Task Force on Tuesday. On Thursday, President LaForge will meet with Ms. Emily Havens to discuss GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi activities.

CABINET TOPIC

Visioning Principles #1-3Dr. Bennett, Dr. McAdams, and Mr. Rutledge

Dr. Bennett and Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet Members an end-of-year update on the progress of addressing the goals for each of the Visioning Principles as established at last year’s Cabinet Advance (see reports). Dr. McAdams and Dr. Moon shared the importance of linking each goal to a respective Strategic Goal of the university in order to measure progress for the university’s accreditation with SACSCOC.

BUSINESS

Action

Ratification of Academic Affairs items..... Dr. Roberts

Motion: Moved by Dr. Roberts to ratify and affirm the following actions taken by Cabinet members via e-mail since the last Cabinet meeting on May 28, 2019 and seconded by Dr. McAdams. The motion was approved.

- June 3, 2019 – Request from Dr. McAdams for approval of the final reading of the revised Undergraduate Admission Requirements policy.
- June 3, 2019 – Request from Dr. McAdams for approval of the final reading of the revised Graduate Admissions Requirements policy.
- June 3, 2019 – Request from Dr. McAdams for approval to search for and hire a Graduate Recruiter in the Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies and Research.

Emeritus Status – Staff policy (revised – final reading)..... Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge brought the revised Emeritus Status – Staff policy to Cabinet for a final reading. The policy was revised to bring it up to date with current practices. The definition of emeritus was added to the policy as well as the updated criteria. Emeritus status is granted to an exemplary employee who has retired in good standing from active professional duty or assigned duties, but retains the title of the employee’s office or position with the additional title of “emeritus”.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the Emeritus Status – Staff policy for a final reading and seconded by Mr. Munroe. The motion was approved.

Employment Status policy (revised – final reading) Mr. Rutledge
Mr. Rutledge brought the revised Employment Status policy to Cabinet for a final reading. The policy was revised to add the definition of an employee and the additional employment classifications of intermittent and time-limited.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the Employment Status policy for a final reading and seconded by Mr. Munroe. The motion was approved.

Occupational Categories policy (revised – final reading) Mr. Rutledge
Mr. Rutledge brought the revised Occupational Categories policy to Cabinet for a final reading. The policy was revised to include the definition of an employee, and the occupational categories were edited, as needed.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the Occupational Categories policy for a final reading and seconded by Mr. Munroe. The motion was approved.

Discussion

Summer SchoolDr. McAdams
Dr. McAdams shared with Cabinet members the Summer I 2019 Tuition comparison with Summer I 2018 and Summer I 2017. Summer I 2019 saw an increase of \$152,686 in tuition and a 30 student increase from Summer I 2018. The initiatives started by the Summer School Task Force have proven effective.

Additional information

- Mr. Rutledge invited Cabinet members to dine in the Young-Mauldin Cafeteria for lunch at the next Orientation session on June 24 in order to experience the new food service vendor, Sodexo.
- Mr. Oguz posed the question of having a faculty lounge in Young-Mauldin in order for faculty and students to have meals together. Mr. Rutledge will look into the request.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members how proud and pleased he was with the presentations made during first Orientation session. He was especially pleased with Ms. Swindle’s remarks to the students and their families.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Orientation Session II, June 24
- Cabinet Advance, July 9-10

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, June 10 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Visioning Principles #4-6 (Dr. Bennett, Dr. McAdams, Mr. Munroe, and Mr. Rutledge)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.