

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: June 20, 2016**

**Members in attendance:** President William LaForge, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge  
(Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

**Members not in attendance:** Dr. Libby Carlson, Dr. E.E. Caston, and Mr. Mikel Sykes

**Guests:** Dr. Vernell Bennett, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Ms. Casey Bourgoyne-Charles, Head Coach, Softball  
Dr. Chris Jurgenson, President, Faculty Senate  
Ms. Christie Rocconi, Chair-Elect, Administrative Staff Council  
Ms. Kassidy Tally, student, GSC Top Ten Award Winner

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on June 20, 2016. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

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

Moved by Dr. McAdams and seconded by Mr. Rutledge to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on June 13, 2016. Dr. Jurgenson requested the following change: on page three under "TFA Delta Institute", remove a repeating "that" on the third line from the top of the page. All Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes as amended.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge welcomed Dr. Vernell Bennett, Delta State's new Vice President for Student Affairs, to her first Cabinet meeting. President LaForge stated the transition period between Drs. Caston and Bennett was seamless, and President LaForge was able to introduce Dr. Bennett to the IHL Board of Trustees and Commissioner at the IHL Board meeting last week.
- President LaForge welcomed Ms. Kassidy Tally and Ms. Casey Bourgoyne-Charles to the Cabinet meeting. President LaForge congratulated Ms. Tally on being named to the GSC Top Ten, a finalist for the Commissioner's trophy, and for her many accomplishments. Ms. Bourgoyne-Charles said Ms. Tally is a great example of a player who worked for everything she earned and was a great asset to the team.
- President and Mrs. LaForge had dinner with Jim and Donna Barksdale, Mike and Nan Sanders, Jim Palmer and Carol Puckett, and co-editors of *Mississippi Today*, Fred Anklam and Dennis Moore. Mr. Anklam and Mr. Moore expressed their interest in involving Delta State students in a new digital media opportunity.
- President LaForge spoke to the Gertrude Ford Foundation Board of Directors on Tuesday about the University's vision and usage of the Foundation's grant funds. President LaForge presented the Board

of Directors with thank you notes written by students in the Pivot Program, which the Gertrude Ford Foundation helped to fund. The Board was appreciative of the information.

- President LaForge mentioned the memorial service held for Coach William Marchant last week. He said it was a great tribute to one of Delta State’s giants.
- As a follow up to Dr. Roberts’ meetings with Teach For America officials last week, President LaForge met with Ms. LaNiesha Cobb-Sanders, Ms. Barbara Logan-Smith, Ms. Mackenzie Smith, and Ms. Lily Laux to discuss the future of the TFA Institute on Delta State’s campus. President LaForge said they offered an apology for not informing us earlier of their decision. The closing of the national institute at Delta State is due to organizational realignments and a lower number of applicants. President LaForge asked the National TFA representatives about Delta State continuing to offer courses for graduate credit hours, and they believe that will be fine.
- The IHL Board of Trustees met last week. President LaForge stated the meeting was brief, and Dr. Bennett was approved as Delta State’s new Vice President for Student Affairs.
- President LaForge said Friday night’s “Catfish on the Quad” event for TFA members was successful and had a great turnout, despite the rain.
- President LaForge mentioned some of the events for the week. The Major Foundations Task Force will meet on Tuesday. President LaForge explained this task force is in place to find new ways to approach major foundations and to seek out new foundations. The Hotel Task Force will meet on Wednesday to discuss the proposal for building a hotel on Delta State’s campus, and to determine if this is a smart idea for Delta State. The task force is comprised of Cabinet Members and a few community members. President LaForge will welcome to campus on Wednesday a group of students and professors from LaTrobe University in Melbourne, Australia. This group is visiting Delta State and GRAMMY Museum Mississippi during a three week trip to the United States. President LaForge hopes this visit will spark an interest in a possible exchange. The third Transfer Orientation session is on Thursday, and the third annual Mayors’ Summit is Thursday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**CABINET TOPIC**

None

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

**Tuition Plan for FY18 and FY19..... Mr. Rutledge**

As discussed at the last Cabinet meeting, we do not have enough money to give significant pay raises to all employees for FY17, due to the decline in state revenue and the resulting statewide budget cuts. In an effort to address the pay raise issue for the FY18 year, Dr. McAdams had suggested we revise our three-year tuition plan—which currently includes increasing tuition 5% for 2016-17, 0% for 2017-18, and 5% for 2018-19—by switching the last two years, which would result in a 5% increase for 2017-18, and 0% for 2018-19. The goal would be to allocate the additional revenue from the tuition increase to pay raises, dependent upon the state’s budget situation at that time. President LaForge said this change would not alter Delta State’s position, among the eight IHL universities, in terms of affordability. Ms. Rocconi offered Cabinet Members a look into the funding of the State’s financial assistance programs. As with other state agencies, state-funded scholarships were also cut. This will cause students to look for different options to pay for their tuition. With the approval of Cabinet, President LaForge will take the proposed change to the three-year tuition plan to IHL Commissioner Glenn Boyce before presenting it to the Board of Trustees. President LaForge would like to leave open

the decision regarding a possible increase for 2018-19, in case we receive additional cuts in our state appropriations.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the change to the three-year tuition plan as presented and seconded by Dr. McAdams. **The motion was approved.**

**Discussion**

None

**Other Discussion**

- Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet Members of a discussion he had with IHL's Associate Commissioner for Finance and Administration, Mr. John Pearce. Mr. Pearce said State agencies will receive another cut to their budgets within the next two weeks. Mr. Rutledge stated he would update Cabinet Members when new information is available.
- Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet members that Delta State's annual Operating Budget was approved by the IHL Board of Trustees at the June meeting. Also, he stated he will work on a template to determine if the waiver of out-of-state tuition has helped or harmed our budget. He will have this information for the Executive Committee meeting on Friday.
- President LaForge announced the renovations to the Union should be complete by the time of the Convocation lunch on August 19.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Mayors' Summit, June 23, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House
- Transfer Orientation III, June 23
- Freshmen Orientation III, June 27-28
- Cabinet Advance, July 19-20, Jacks Barnhouse
- Convocation, August 19

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, June 27, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.