

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: June 27, 2016**

**Members in attendance:** President William LaForge, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, 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, Dr. Charles McAdams, and Mr. Mikel Sykes

**Guests:** Dr. Vernell Bennett, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Dr. Chris Jurgenson, President, Faculty Senate  
Ms. Christie Rocconi, Chair-Elect, Administrative Staff Council

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on June 27, 2016. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

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

On motion by Mr. Mayers, seconded by Ms. Read, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on June 20, 2016.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- The "Major Foundations Task Force" met last week. President LaForge said this task force is slated with putting together Delta State's best resources to be able to approach donors and corporations to discover their interests in terms of donations.
- Last week, President LaForge welcomed to campus a group of 47 students and professors from LaTrobe University in Melbourne, Australia who were taking part in a three-week cultural trip from New Orleans to Memphis. The Student Success Center hosted a lunch for the group before they toured the Delta Music Institute and GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi. President LaForge is hopeful this meeting will spark an interest in establishing an exchange program with LaTrobe University.
- President LaForge gave an update on the third annual Mayors' Summit, which he hosted last week. Sixteen mayors were in attendance, and the main topics of discussion were the Race Conference, recruiting efforts, and a training program for local government officials. Due to the favorable response from the mayors, President LaForge plans to proceed with the training program, and will reach out to different donors for funding opportunities.
- President LaForge asked Dr. Bennett to give an update on Orientation. Dr. Bennett stated the sessions are going well, and she has seen walk-ins at the last two sessions. She was pleased to see alumni being acknowledged during the session, and she believes the skit is engaging. She feels the critical needs sessions in the afternoon should be seen by students. The students at the Transfer Orientation sessions respond favorably to the business aspects of Orientation.
- President LaForge announced GRAMMY Museum Mississippi will open their new exhibit on Thursday, June 30. The new exhibit is "Pride and Joy: The Texas Blues of Stevie Ray Vaughan."

- President LaForge reminded Cabinet Members of the Fourth of July holiday on Monday and the opening of Summer Session II on Tuesday, July 5.

**CABINET TOPIC**

None

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

None

**Discussion**

**Hotel/Housing Proposal..... President LaForge**

President LaForge sent the list of questions and concerns raised during the initial Hotel Task Force meeting to the business group interested in developing the project. Some of the major concerns raised during the meeting were the occupancy levels, the future of the golf course, the University’s revenue stream, and competition from other boutique hotels. President LaForge asked the business group to come prepared to discuss their plans, a marketing strategy, success seen at other universities, and to address concerns raised by the task force. President LaForge has approached IHL Commissioner Glenn Boyce about this possibility, and he is in favor of the idea. However, he would like for Delta State to reach out to the Inn at Ole Miss for advice. President LaForge stated the next meeting of the Hotel Task Force will be scheduled soon.

**Organizational Chart: 2016-17 ..... Dr. Roberts**

Dr. Roberts informed Cabinet Members the organizational chart is updated on July 1 of each year. The organizational chart is submitted with different reports created by Institutional Research, and is published on the Delta State website. Dr. Roberts asked Cabinet Members to submit any changes to Ms. Cole by Friday. The organizational chart will be presented for a final time at the next Cabinet meeting.

**Cabinet Advance dates ..... Dr. Roberts**

Dr. Roberts informed Cabinet Members that the Cabinet Advance dates had to be modified due to Commissioner Boyce scheduling an Institutional Executive Officers meeting on July 20. After polling all Cabinet Members, the Cabinet Advance dates have been changed to July 18 and 19.

**Other Discussion**

- President LaForge shared a clip from *USA Today* with Cabinet Members. The clip states, “43% of parents restrict children’s college choices based on price.”
- Dr. Roberts reminded Cabinet Members the next Cabinet Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 5. We will have refreshments, and will recognize the outgoing and incoming members of the Cabinet— Academic Council representative, Faculty Senate President, Staff Council Chair, and SGA President.
- Mr. Rutledge received a call from the attorneys, who are handling the sale of the bonds of the Foundation Hall project, notifying him that the interest rate for the bonds decreased dramatically due to the exit of Great Britain from the European Union, which will result in additional savings of approximately \$600,000. The bonds will be ready for sale on Wednesday.

- Mr. Fulcher announced the Foundation is only \$2,090 away from reaching the Annual Fund goal. He stated this is the second consecutive year they will reach the \$500,000 goal. He said 71% of last year's donors also donated to this year's fund. While their goal was 80%, the national average is 60%.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Freshmen Orientation III, June 27-28
- Transfer Orientation IV, July 1
- 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 5, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – University Vision (President LaForge)  
FY17 Budget (Mr. Rutledge)

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