

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: March 19, 2018

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. George Beals, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Ms. Ashley Griffin, Mr. Patrick Hundley, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Dave Breaux and Ms. Christie Rocconi

Guests: Dr. Temika Simmons, Chair, Winning the Race Conference

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on March 19, 2018. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rutledge, seconded by Mr. Mayers, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on March 12, 2018.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge introduced Dr. Temika Simmons and asked her to give an update on the upcoming Winning the Race Conference. The first event, Pre-Conference Open House and Press Conference at the Amzie Moore House, commences the conference on Sunday, March 25. During the Pre-Conference Open House, a special program will announce the newest inductees to the Civil Rights Veterans program. The remainder of the conference takes place on Monday, March 26 and Tuesday, March 27 with wonderful breakout sessions on education, community, economic opportunity, culture and opportunity, and social justice, civil rights, and law. The conference is pleased to host a forum specifically designed for high school students again this year, and to offer educators Continuing Education Credits. As of this morning, the conference had 244 registered participants; however, Dr. Simmons believes the final total of participants will be between 600-700. All sessions will be live streamed. Dr. Simmons requested the help of Cabinet Members in getting the word out to students and encouraging them to attend.
- President LaForge announced Governor Phil Bryant's IHL Board appointees — Dr. Steven Cunningham of Hattiesburg; Ms. Jeanne Luckey of Ocean Springs; Mr. Emmette Bruce of Meridian; and, Mr. Powell Ogletree of Flowood. They will begin their nine-year term on May 8. The new appointees will replace Dr. Douglas Rouse, Mr. Alan Perry, Mr. C.D. Smith, Jr., and Ms. Christy Pickering.
- President LaForge referenced the Campus Update that was emailed to faculty, staff, and students this morning. This is an effort on his part to communicate with the campus community and update them on what is going on throughout campus. President LaForge stated Cabinet Members are free to share the campus update with anyone.
- President LaForge announced the Faculty, Staff, and Student Forums will take place on Wednesday,

April 11. The staff forum will begin at 10:00 a.m., the student forum follows beginning at 12:00 p.m., and the final forum will be for faculty beginning at 3:00 p.m. The forums give President LaForge, the Executive Committee, and each group's representative on Cabinet an opportunity to answer questions, share budget priorities, provide updates on the legislative session, and discuss campus projects.

- President LaForge had a phone call with Mr. Mayo Flynt of AT&T last week to discuss a STEM summer camp proposal and an Accelerator grant.
- President LaForge gave campaign updates to Mr. Jim Tims and Ambassador John Palmer last week.
- President and Mrs. LaForge attended the Civil Rights Commemoration event at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi last week. He stated it was a very good program and well attended.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. All coaches and athletic staff are participating in sexual assault and Title IX training sessions today. He stated athletic staff need to know what their next step would be if a student speaks to them about an incident. The dedication ceremony for the Derrall Foreman Golf Course is April 28 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The men's and women's swimming and diving teams placed 9th and 25th respectively at the NCAA DII Championship. Several swimmers finished in the top five in the country. Mr. Mayers believes the team will be stronger next season. The baseball team won two games against the University of West Alabama over the weekend. The softball team won one out of three games against the University of West Alabama over the weekend. The softball team hosts University of Arkansas at Monticello for a double header on Tuesday and Shorter University this weekend. The baseball teams hosts Shorter University for a series beginning on Saturday. Mr. Mayers stated the golf team is doing tremendously well, and their new coach, Mr. Easton Key, has done a wonderful job coaching. The men's tennis team won against Alcorn State University and University of North Alabama last week. Spring football practice begins on Wednesday. Mr. Mayers encouraged Cabinet Members to come out and enjoy spring sports.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Mr. Rutledge explained the larger projects are delayed due to the amount of rain received recently. The Roberts-LaForge Library light project should be finished within the next two weeks. Regarding the Zeigel Hall project, employees should be able to move back into their offices following commencement in May.
- President LaForge continues his campus outreach this week with visits to three departments: Division of Management, Marketing, and Business Administration; Division of Accountancy, Computer Information Systems, and Finance; and, Division of Social Sciences and History.
- President LaForge gave an overview for the week ahead. He will have a campaign update meeting with Ms. Meredith Creekmore on Wednesday. The IHL Board of Trustees will meet on Thursday. Dr. McAdams will represent Delta State in President LaForge's absence. On Thursday afternoon, President LaForge will meet with Dr. William Bell and the Casey Family Programs team. On Thursday evening, President and Mrs. LaForge will host several friends and donors of the university for the BPAC performance of Gladys Knight.
- President LaForge reminded Cabinet Members that Mr. Fred Smith's lecture, as part of the Colloquia series, is Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. in Jobe Auditorium, with a reception to follow in the lobby. Prior to his lecture, President LaForge is hosting a reception at 5:00 p.m. in Mr. Smith's honor in the President's Conference Room for Cabinet Members, Colloquia Committee members, and a few members of the Cleveland community. President LaForge urged Cabinet Members to spread the word and help garner attendance for the event. Mr. Smith agreed to host a Conversation with Student Leaders on Thursday morning, and President LaForge requested Dr. Bennett and Ms. Griffin help garner attendance for this event. This is a wonderful opportunity for our student leaders to hear from a Fortune 500 CEO.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

Golf Course RFP Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge gave Cabinet Members an update on the Golf Course RFP. He meets with members of the IHL staff this week to discuss the best way to create a RFP of this nature. Mr. Rutledge hopes to bring a draft of the RFP to Cabinet by April 16.

Commencement Plans Dr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams presented the Spring 2018 Commencement plans to Cabinet Members. Commencement occurs on Saturday, May 5 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The first ceremony will bestow degrees upon all graduate students and undergraduate students of the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing. The second ceremony will bestow degrees upon the remaining undergraduate students. Delta State will bestow an honorary degree on Ms. Mavis Staples at the first ceremony, and the speaker at both ceremonies will be Dr. Glen Jones, President of Henderson State University and President of the NCAA DII President’s Council.

Strategic Plan Dr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams informed Cabinet Members it is time to move forward with a revised strategic plan. The current strategic plan was created for a five year period beginning in 2009. The plan was reaffirmed in 2013 to carry over for an additional five years beginning in 2015. With the end drawing near for our strategic plan, the Executive Committee will consider a path forward. A committee will be established to see what was done well in the past and what can be accomplished in the future. Dr. McAdams informed Cabinet Members it is the job of the Cabinet to own the strategic plan and more information will be presented in the near future.

Legislative Update Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts gave an update on the legislative session. The legislature begins Conference Week today. The deadline for action on bills is Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Dr. Roberts gave an update on the House dinner from last week. She stated it was a small turnout, but those in attendance represented the top leadership positions for the committees who have the most impact on Delta State. Dr. Roberts stated this was a great opportunity for legislators to get to know Delta State better prior to making their final decisions during Conference Week.

Personnel Updates Cabinet Members

President LaForge invited Cabinet Members to give an update on personnel changes occurring in their respective areas. Dr. Roberts stated the Vice President for University Advancement and External Relations Search Committee meets tomorrow for Skype interviews with selected candidates. Mr. Hundley informed Cabinet Members the Director of Communications and Marketing and a Graphic Designer have resigned, and he is looking to hire a part-time position for the Radio Station. Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet Members a secretary has resigned in Facilities Management.

Additional information:

- Dr. Bennett reminded Cabinet Members the Women’s Conference begins tomorrow. The first event, an opening luncheon, begins at 11:00 a.m. with an address by Dr. Myrtis Tabb. The remaining events for the first day include a Health and Wellness Fair, keynote address from Ms. Pam Chapman, and the Lady Statesmen Emerald Awards of Excellence that evening. The schedule continues on Wednesday with a flash mob, “Me Too” rally, Color Sprint, and a BBQ on the Quad.
- Ms. Griffin announced SGA elections are next week. Applications for positions are due this week.
- Dr. Beals reminded Cabinet Members the 37th Annual F.E. Woodall conference is Friday, March 23. The conference has 210 registrants thus far.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on the changeover of beverage companies on campus. He stated it is going very well and most machines have been placed. The remainder of the machines to be replaced will be finalized this week.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Women’s Conference, March 20-21
- Colloquia Series with Mr. Fred Smith, CEO of FedEx, March 21, 6:00 p.m., Jobe Hall
- Gladys Knight, March 22, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Winning the Race Conference, March 26-27
- International Business Symposium, March 28-29

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, March 26 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Budget Requests for 2018-19: Facilities, New and Expanded, and Scholarships (Mr. Rutledge)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.