

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: November 30, 2015

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Libby Carlson, Dr. E.E. Caston, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Mr. Steve McClellan, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Mikel Sykes (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on November 30, 2015. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge informed Cabinet members of the deaths of Ms. Sue King and Dr. Tony Scarborough. The funeral arrangements for Ms. King were on Sunday, and Dr. Scarborough's funeral will be held on Tuesday at First Baptist Church.
- President LaForge attended the IEO and IHL Board meetings in Jackson last week. During the IEO meeting, several important topics were discussed including: firearms on campus, the state flag, financial aid, and the Fair Labor Standards Act. Firearms on campus is an important issue for IHL. Regarding the Fair Labor Standards Act, the IHL university presidents signed a letter stating their concerns with the new regulations and the negative impact overtime pay could have on university budgets.
- President LaForge stated the BPAC Performance "A Very Electric Christmas" went very well, and his guests were appreciative of their tickets.
- President LaForge asked Mr. Mayers to give an update on Athletics. Mr. Mayers stated men's and women's basketball had great weekends with the women's team winning both of their games. He reported that 29 student-athletes have signed with Delta State during the early signing period in November. Also, Athletics will host 24 mid-year football recruits from community colleges across the state on Thursday.
- President LaForge discussed this week's schedule. He had lunch with Mr. Will Hooker, County Administrator and Mr. James McBride, County Board of Supervisors' President today. He will continue his Department Visits this week with Financial Assistance, HPE&R, Teacher Education, Social Work, Student Success Center, and Mathematics. The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Kent Wyatt Hall will be held on Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. The GRAMMY Museum Mississippi Board will meet on Thursday, and First Friday Faculty Meetings will take place on Friday afternoon.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. McClellan, seconded by Ms. Read, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on November 30, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Retiree Benefits Policy (first reading).....Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan brought to Cabinet an updated version of the Retiree Benefits policy in the University’s policy format. The updated policy has a clear, concise definition of a retiree and the benefits they are eligible for after retirement. To be eligible for the benefits listed in the policy, a retiree is defined as a full-time employee retiring with ten or more years of service to the university or a part-time employee retiring with fifteen or more years of service to the university.

Motion: Moved by Mr. McClellan to approve the first reading of the Retiree Benefits Policy and seconded by Mr. Mayers. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Changes to the Summer Developmental Program Requirements.....Dr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams began by informing Cabinet Members of the IHL requirements for a student to be fully admitted to an IHL university. If a student cannot meet the requirements set forth by IHL, the student will be granted admission to the Summer Developmental Program. This thorough program focuses on high school subject areas (English, Reading, and Mathematics) that are relevant to success in first year college courses. A student can take the Summer Developmental Program at any IHL university and must pass the program with a grade of D to be fully admitted to an IHL University. Depending on a student’s subtest scores on the ACT, the admitting IHL institution requires a student to take an intermediate course if the subtest score in math, reading, and/or English is below 16. The IHL Board recently amended the policy to allow students who complete the high school SREB (Southern Regional Education Board) Math Ready or SREB Literacy Ready courses with a grad of “80” or higher to be eligible to enroll directly in a college-level algebra or English course without the need for remediation, regardless of ACT subtest scores.

Other Discussion

- Dr. Roberts asked Cabinet Members to contact her if they plan to present their visioning process to Cabinet on December 9.
- Mr. McClellan asked Cabinet Members to send to him, by Thursday at noon, any emergency requests for mid-year pay raises.
- President LaForge received a request from Mr. Gene Dattel, Sigma Alpha Epsilon alumnus, to host Mr. Sykes at Yale University to speak on cultural diversity.
- President LaForge informed Cabinet Members of Coach Boo Ferriss’ upcoming 94th birthday. President LaForge plans to host a birthday party for him this week.
- President LaForge received a request from the Delta Arts Alliance to serve wine at their Christmas Potpourri on Tuesday evening. President LaForge asked Cabinet Members for their thoughts on the matter.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Fall Commencement, Graduate students, BPAC, December 11, 7:30 pm
- Fall Commencement, Undergraduate students, BPAC, December 12, 10:00 am
- Winter Holidays, December 23 - January 1
- GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, Grand Opening, March 5
- IHL Board meeting at DSU, April 21, 2016

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Visioning Process

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.