

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: November 5, 2018

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Severine Groh, Mr. Charlie King, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Billy Moore, Dr. Christy Riddle, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Mr. Rick Munroe and Dr. Vernell Bennett

Guests: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on November 5, 2018. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rutledge and seconded by Mr. Mayers, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on October 29, 2018.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. He met with Dr. Rose Strahan to discuss the Search Committee's recommendations for Delta State's new Athletic Director. President LaForge visited with members of the *Delta Statement* staff, and he asked Cabinet Members to remind their constituencies that Delta State has an online newspaper. As a continuation of his campaign update and cultivation visits, President LaForge met with Mr. Jack Davis, Mr. Louis Baioni, and Mr. and Mrs. Danny Barfield last week. He also paid a stewardship visit to FedEx officials last week. Delta State hosted its first Employer's Listening Session last week, and Dr. McAdams said he was pleased with the participation and the great discussions. On Thursday, President LaForge attended the funeral of Foundation Board member, Mr. Jeff Tarver. The inaugural Mississippi McNair Scholars symposium held a banquet last Friday, and President LaForge provided the welcome.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. The football team played well against the University of West Georgia over the weekend, and they will play Mississippi College on Saturday for Homecoming. The swimming and diving team won their meet against Henderson State University. The men's basketball team won against Mississippi Valley State University over the weekend. The men and women's basketball teams are on the road this week to compete in their crossover matches with Eckerd College and Florida Southern College and Nova Southeastern University and Barry University, respectively.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on facilities projects. The ribbon cutting ceremony for Zeigel Hall begins at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, and the ribbon cutting ceremony for Statesmen Boulevard begins at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. The furniture for Young-Mauldin Cafeteria is being delivered today, and Cabinet Members will tour the facility after next week's Cabinet meeting. Mr. Rutledge has scheduled a meeting with the Bureau of Buildings to discuss the state's sale of the bonds and the timeline for when the university will

receive its funds. Mr. Rutledge believes the money will be received by the end of the month, and the projects should begin in January. Mr. Rutledge hopes to meet with the architect and contractor for the President's home this week and to have a contract signed by Friday. Delta State has petitioned the Department of Transportation to open the gate, west of the marquee, for basketball season. Mr. Rutledge is working with the Delta State Police Department, Department of Transportation, and the Cleveland Police Department to create a traffic plan that involves keeping the gate open at all times in order to provide better traffic flow around the Coliseum and Kent Wyatt Hall. Mr. Rutledge reported that the development of the Golf Course is still in a preliminary state as issues are being ironed out.

- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. He will attend the Cleveland Music Foundation's Annual Business meeting on Thursday morning, and that afternoon he will participate in a podcast sponsored by Alexander Haas. On Thursday evening, he will host several guests for the BPAC performance of the Jersey Boys. A retirement celebration honoring Mr. Ronnie Mayers will take place on Friday at 3:00 p.m. in the Leroy E. Morganti Atrium of Kent Wyatt Hall. President LaForge will host his football reception on Saturday, beginning at 1:30 p.m., and kickoff for the football game is at 2:00 p.m. Cleveland will host the "50 Nights of Lights" Tree Lighting ceremony on Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m. On Sunday, President LaForge will attend a scholarship fundraiser at Ole Miss in honor of Senator Thad Cochran.

CABINET TOPIC

Visioning Goals #7 - #10 for FY19 Mr. Mayers and Dr. Riddle

Mr. Mayers and Dr. Riddle presented to Cabinet Members their respective goals for FY19 in support of Visioning Goals seven through ten. (see reports)

BUSINESS

Action

Hiring Requests Cabinet Members

In response to the Cabinet's decision that all requests to search for and fill vacant positions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Cabinet, Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet positions for consideration. The positions presented do not impact the salary savings identified previously to address the budget shortfall.

Academic Affairs Requests

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet Members the request to search for and hire a part-time Program Assistant for the McNair Research Scholars Program. The position is funded by a Federal TRIO grant.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the searching and hiring of a part-time Program Assistant for the McNair Research Scholars Program and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. **The motion was approved.**

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet Members the request to search for and hire a part-time Remote Sensing Lab Coordinator for the Center for Geospatial Information Technology. This position is funded by a METOC grant.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the searching and hiring of a part-time Remote Sensing Lab Coordinator for the Center for Geospatial Information Technology and seconded by Mr. King. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

October 31st Application Day Dr. Roberts

In Dr. Bennett’s absence, Dr. Roberts reported to Cabinet Members the results of the October 31 Application Day. Enrollment management promoted an application fee waiver day on October 31, and 659 applications were received on that day. On this one day, they received from first-time freshmen one third of the total applications received last year, and they received from transfer students 10% of the applications received last year. The focus now will be on converting the prospects into students. Enrollment Management is considering having an application fee waiver day again in the spring.

Campus Forums Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts reminded Cabinet Members that the Campus Forums will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, at 10:00 a.m. for staff, 12:15 p.m. for students, and 3:00 p.m. for faculty. All forums will take place in the Union. Dr. Roberts encouraged Cabinet Members to invite their constituencies. During the forums, President LaForge will discuss enrollment, retention, four-day workweek savings, scholarship budget, spending slow down, fundraising, new initiatives on campus, and campus projects. President LaForge asked Dr. Groh, Dr. Riddle, and Mr. King if he needed to add any specific topics that might be of interest to their respective groups. Dr. Riddle suggested President LaForge discuss the new President’s home and its availability to faculty and staff, as well as the reason graduate students have to pay the student activity fee. Mr. King suggested discussing the delay in the opening of Young-Mauldin Cafeteria. Dr. Groh suggested providing additional budget information, including the bond priorities, and how the university plans to handle any budget shortfalls.

Homecoming Schedule..... Dr. Roberts

In Dr. Bennett’s and Mr. Munroe’s absence, Dr. Roberts shared with Cabinet Members the Homecoming 2018 schedule.

Additional information

- Dr. Moore announced the Center for Economic Education and Research, along with the Mississippi Council on Economic Education, hosted 225 third, fourth, and fifth grade students from Pearman Elementary School and D.M. Smith Elementary School. He stated Delta State students did an excellent job hosting, and it was an outstanding event.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Presidential Forums, November 6 (Staff-10:00am, Students-12:15pm, Faculty–3:00pm)
- Jersey Boys performance, November 8, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Homecoming, November 9-10
- Delta State football vs. Mississippi College, November 10, 2:00 p.m. (wear green), Parker Field. President’s Reception at 1:30 p.m., Dorgan Center.
- Thanksgiving Holidays for staff, November 22-23
- Christmas Tree Lighting, November 26, 3:00 p.m., Leroy E. Morganti Atrium
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical, December 4, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Fall Exams, December 3-6
- Fall Commencement, December 7, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, November 12 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Delta Center for Culture and Learning (Dr. McAdams)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.