

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: November 8, 2021

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Vicki Bingham, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Mr. Rick Munroe, Dr. Andy Novobilski, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Ms. Nakikke Wallace, Dr. Andrew Wegmann, and Mr. William Young (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Mr. Jamie Rutledge

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on November 8, 2021. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Dr. Novobilski, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on November 2, 2021.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. President LaForge continued his departmental visits with a visit to Alumni Affairs. A new edition to President LaForge's Statesmen Insider was filmed with Ms. Celeste Turner of the Lady Statesmen swimming and diving team. The Office of Academic Affairs hosted a book signing and celebration for Dr. Wegmann's new book *French Connections: Cultural Mobility in North America and the Atlantic World, 1600–1875*. The College of Business and Aviation held their annual Scholarship Reception. President LaForge met with the preferred candidate for the Congressional Fellow position, Ms. Isabella Escobedo, and, he supports her representing Delta State next semester in Senator Roger Wicker's Office. The BPAC hosted a performance of country music band Lonestar. The Office of Admissions hosted a Preview Day that focused largely on minority students. President LaForge spoke with the audit team members from Clifton Larsen Allen about their recent audit of Delta State's financials. The audit team was very complimentary of the university. President LaForge and Mr. Kinnison hosted GSC Commissioner Matt Wilson for lunch prior to the Delta State vs. Mississippi College football game on Saturday.
- Mr. Kinnison provided an update on athletics. The football team defeated Mississippi College in overtime, and they will travel to University of West Georgia this weekend for their final game of the season. The men's soccer team finished their season last week with a loss to Mississippi College. The women's soccer team finished their regular season with a loss to Mississippi College; however, they advanced to the first round of the GSC Championship tournament. The team was defeated by University of West Georgia. The swimming and diving teams defeated Ouachita Baptist University during their weekend meet, and they will host the Delta Dive Invitational beginning on November 19. The men's and women's basketball teams competed in exhibition games last week. The men's team competed against University of Southern Mississippi, and the women's team competed against Mississippi Valley State University. The men's basketball team competes in the GSC/SSC Classic this

weekend against Eckerd College and Florida Southern College, and the women’s basketball team competes in the GSC/SIAC Classic against Tuskegee University and LeMoyne-Owen College.

- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. President LaForge filmed a video this morning with Ms. Kashanta Jackson and Ms. LaJoyce Stewart about the Student Health Center offering vaccinations. On Tuesday, President LaForge will participate in the weekly conference call with Commissioner Al Rankins and IEOs regarding COVID-19 related issues, and then he will participate in the GSC Board of Directors meeting. The final class session for President LaForge’s Leadership Class occurs on Tuesday evening, and President LaForge invited Cabinet members to attend to listen to student presentations. Throughout the week, President LaForge will visit with the men’s soccer team and the men’s basketball team. On Wednesday, President LaForge will continue his tradition of hosting a reception for graduating international students. The GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi Board of Directors meet on Thursday. On Thursday afternoon, President LaForge and the Executive Committee will host the campus forum for all faculty and staff. Cleveland’s “50 Nights of Lights” event kicks off Saturday evening.

CABINET TOPIC

Enrollment and Budget Outlook..... President LaForge

Dr. Roberts provided Cabinet members an overview of the talking points for the upcoming Campus Forum, which will be held on Thursday, November 11, at 3:00 p.m. in Jacob Conference Center in Ewing Hall. The Campus Forum is open to all faculty and staff. Topics for the campus forum include: a COVID-19 overview; enrollment challenges and budget impact; the FY22 budget status; campus projects; and, new initiatives. Questions can be submitted to constituency group leaders prior to the forum or asked during the event. Cabinet members discussed potential questions faculty and staff may ask the Executive Committee during the forum.

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

None

Additional Information

- President LaForge requested Cabinet members to follow up with his staff if they would like to attend the BPAC performance of Ephrat Asherie Dance. If no Cabinet members would like to attend, President LaForge plans to offer his tickets to the cheerleading squad.
- Dr. Novobilski made the following announcements: the Delta Chorale has their Fall Concert on Thursday; Fielding-Wright Art Gallery opened a new exhibition last week; and, DMI students will serve as the pep band for basketball games through December.
- Dr. Novobilski thanked Cabinet members for recording videos that will be included in the upcoming MAC Conference.
- Mr. Young announced SGA is working with the Foundation and Communications and Marketing on a “Giving Tuesday” campaign to raise funds for an outdoor recreation center for students. The Alumni

Association funded the first \$5,000 of the campaign. Initial communication of the campaign is set to be released next week.

- Dr. Lovin announced Casino Night, hosted by the Office of Student Life, was a well-attended event. He thanked Mr. Young, the Zeta Beta Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha, and SGA for their help in setting up and breaking down the event. There were 107 students in attendance at the women's soccer game over the weekend. Dr. Lovin met with the Chair of the Art Department, Mr. Chet Oguz, to discuss the idea of having art students to paint murals in the H. L. Nowell Union and to provide gallery wall space for them, as well. Also, Dr. Lovin is finalizing this week the interview process for the Director of Student Engagement and Services position.
- Mr. Munroe announced that more than \$400,000 was raised in the Foundation's fundraising efforts in October.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Miss Delta State University Scholarship Competition, November 9, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Campus Forum, November 11, 2021, 3:00 p.m., Jacob Conference Center, Ewing Hall
- Ephrat Asherie Dance, November 18, 2021, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Thanksgiving Holidays, November 25 and 26

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, November 15, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.