

**DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**PRESIDENT'S CABINET**  
*Minutes*

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**Meeting date: October 15, 2018**

**Members in attendance:** President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Dr. Severine Groh, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Billy Moore, Mr. Rick Munroe, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (recorder – Dr. Roberts)

**Members not in attendance:** Mr. Charlie King and Dr. Christy Riddle

**Guests:** None

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on October 15, 2018. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Dr. McAdams and seconded by Mr. Rutledge, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on October 8, 2018.

**GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge gave an overview of last week's activities and events. The Bolivar County Historical Society hosted a welcome reception for the International Student Association at the Railroad Museum. Dr. Mark Emmert, President of the NCAA, was on campus on Tuesday for the Colloquia Lecture Series. He spent the day touring the campus and meeting with student leaders, student-athletes, and coaches. There was a VIP reception for him at 5:00 p.m. and the lecture took place at 6:00 p.m. in Jobe Auditorium, followed by a general reception in the lobby. The Fall Career Fair took place on Wednesday. Dr. Bennett said 99 businesses registered, and 90 attended. On Thursday morning, President LaForge traveled to Jackson to attend Dr. Will Bynum's inauguration at Jackson State University. That afternoon, President LaForge met with Dr. David Abney to provide him with an update on the capital campaign. The International Business Symposium took place on Thursday evening and Friday morning. President LaForge hosted a breakfast for the speakers on Friday morning. The baseball team scrimmaged against the University of Mississippi on Saturday. On Sunday, there was a welcome reception for Dr. Ajay C. Joshi, Indian Fulbright-In-Residence, at the Center for Teaching and Learning.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. Men's soccer tied with Lindenwood University on Sunday. The cross-country team is doing well. One of the runners posted the second fastest time in the program's history. The football team played hard, but lost to West Alabama on Saturday. They host Shorter University on Thursday. Men's Soccer plays against Ouachita Baptist University today. The women's soccer match against Valdosta State University was rescheduled to Tuesday. The swim team travels to Missouri S&T this week for a meet. On Saturday, Delta State will host the Mississippi High School Activities Association's North-Half swim meet. Seventeen high schools will participate. Mr. Mayers shared with Cabinet members that Mr. Matt Jones is attending the "Business of Small College

Athletics” workshop, and he is presenting on the topic of “Building and Growing Sustainable Sponsorship Programs.”

- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on facilities projects. He and Mr. Mayers are working on a ribbon cutting ceremony for Statesmen Boulevard as part of the Homecoming activities. They are still working on a few punch list items for Zeigel Hall, which should be complete by Friday. The ribbon cutting ceremony for Zeigel Hall is scheduled for November 9. They will do a walk-through of Young-Mauldin cafeteria on Wednesday. Most of the furniture has arrived, except for the theater furniture, which is scheduled to arrive on November 5. Facilities Management is gearing up to start work on the bond projects. The funds should come available at the end of November. Entergy provided Delta State with a check for \$1,500, as a result of rebates available for the new marquee.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. This morning, he met with Dr. John Pendergrass, the guest lecturer for this year’s Kent Wyatt Lectureship program. The presentation by Dr. Ajay C. Joshi, Indian Fulbright-In-Residence, will take place tonight at 7:00 p.m. in Jobe Auditorium. The summary judgement hearing for the Bill Hays case is scheduled for Tuesday in Clarksdale. The College of Education and Human Sciences Kent Wyatt Lectureship will take place on Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in the Jacob Conference Center in Ewing Hall. The Institutional Executive Officers will meet on Wednesday, and the IHL Board meeting will take place on Thursday. President LaForge will visit Jackson Academy on Thursday afternoon. The Large Foundations task force will meet on Friday afternoon. On Saturday, President LaForge will attend a brunch that Mrs. Margaret Walker Hays is hosting, and he leaves on Monday to attend the NCAA’s President’s Council meeting.

**CABINET TOPIC**

**Visioning Goals #4-6 for FY19..... Dr. Bennett, Dr. McAdams, Mr. Munroe, Mr. Rutledge**  
Dr. Bennett, Dr. McAdams, Mr. Munroe, and Mr. Rutledge presented to Cabinet Members their respective goals for FY19 in support of Visioning Goals four through six. (see reports)

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

**Hiring Requests ..... Dr. Bennett and Dr. McAdams**

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. Bennett and Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet positions for consideration. The positions presented do not impact the salary savings identified previously to address the budget shortfall.

**Student Affairs Requests**

Dr. Bennett requests to search for and hire a Recruiter and a Transfer Processor in the Office of Admissions.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Bennett to approve the searching and hiring of a Recruiter and a Transfer Processor in the Office of Admissions for FY19 and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. **The motion was approved.**

**Academic Affairs Requests**

Dr. McAdams presented to Cabinet Members the request to search for and hire the position of Program Manager in the Center for Geospatial Information Technology (being paid for by grant funds), and the Senior Secretary in in the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation department.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the searching and hiring of a Program Manager in the Center for Geospatial Information Technology and the Senior Secretary in the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation department for FY19 and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. **The motion was approved.**

**Professional Dress Code and Personal Appearance policy (revised, first reading)..... Mr. Rutledge**

Mr. Rutledge presented to Cabinet Members the revised Professional Dress Code and Personal Appearance policy for first reading. A significant amount of information was added to the policy in order to provide more guidance on appropriate attire.

**Motion:** Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the revised Professional Dress Code and Personal Appearance policy for first reading and seconded by Dr. McAdams. **The motion was approved.**

**Discussion**

**New Marquee ..... Mr. Rutledge**

Mr. Rutledge referenced the new marquee on the highway. They have received numerous positive comments about the new marquee. The Office of Communications and Marketing will manage the information on the marquee as soon as training is provided. Mr. Rutledge said they will need to remove one oak tree on the west side of the marquee that is blocking the sign. He said the Executive Committee is considering the option of allowing advertisements on the marquee. They have removed the columns and fence that were on the south side of the marquee. Mr. Rutledge will meet with Chief Jeff Johns and Police Chief Buster Bingham to discuss a traffic plan for the traffic flow from the Coliseum parking lot onto Highway 8.

**Admissions Recruitment Plan .....Dr. Bennett**

Dr. Bennett referenced the admissions Recruitment Plan that will be distributed to Cabinet Members via email. The focus this year is on first time freshman in the Delta and in DeSoto County, as well as out-of-state recruitment. Dr. Bennett referenced the new “Each One Recruit One” program, as well as the new Statesman Club, which has 85 members so far. The first Academic Spotlight day is scheduled for December 1. They plan to utilize social media a lot more. President LaForge suggested the alumni association consider having a “chapter challenge” for each Alumni Chapter, which would include recognizing the alumni chapter that produces the greatest number of students to apply and then enroll. Mr. Mayers asked about plans for international recruiting. While there is not a budget for marketing to international students, he suggested utilizing current international students to help provide information to students in their home countries, as well as to utilize social media. Dr. Bennett will work with Dr. Riddle to incorporate international recruiting into the recruiting plan. Also, President LaForge asked Dr. Bennett to work with Dr. Beverly Moon to share information with one another on initiatives in each of their areas (undergraduate and graduate recruiting).

**Facility Rental Process..... Dr. Roberts**

Dr. Roberts referenced the new facility rental process, and stated that not all efforts are being coordinated through the coordinator of the university calendar, Ms. Tarnisha Smith. She cited Cleveland’s upcoming Octoberfest event and the fact that Delta State was not listed as a partner due to a lack of coordination and communication about the services and equipment Delta State provides for the event. President LaForge wants to meet with everyone involved with the facility rental process and those who provides set ups and equipment for events.

**Additional information**

- Dr. Moore announced that the Mississippi Council on Economic Education would host on Delta State's campus on November 2 their stock investment competition for approximately 150 third graders.
- Mr. Munroe announced they are conducting Staff Writer interviews this week.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Kent Wyatt Lectureship, October 16, 3:30 p.m. Jacob Conference Center
- Delta State football vs. Shorter University, October 25, 6:00 p.m. (wear pink), Parker Field. President's Reception at 5:30 p.m., Dorgan Center
- John Prine performance, October 25, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, October 29 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Retention (Dr. McAdams and Mr. Mayers)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.