

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: October 24, 2022

Members in attendance: Dr. Joshua Armstrong, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Ms. Lucia Chacon Habis, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Dr. Andy Novobilski, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Dr. E. E. Caston, Dr. Caroline Fletcher, and Mr. Rick Munroe

Guests: Ms. Elizabeth Branton, Assistant Director, Student Life
Ms. Holly Ray, Chair-Elect, Administrative Staff Council
Ms. Amanda Robinson, Interim Director, Alumni Affairs

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on October 24, 2022. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Novobilski presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Mr. Rutledge, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on October 12, 2022.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The football team defeated Shorter University and will travel to Mississippi College this weekend. The men's soccer team lost to University of West Florida and tied with Spring Hill College over the weekend, and they host a makeup game against University of Montevallo on Tuesday. The men's soccer team must defeat University of Montevallo to enter the GSC tournament. The women's soccer team lost to University of West Florida and won against Spring Hill College over the weekend. The women's team competes in the first round of the GSC tournament on Tuesday against University of West Alabama. The cross-country team ran at University of Alabama-Huntsville on Saturday, and they travel to University of Montevallo for the GSC Championship on November 5. The golf team is at University of West Georgia today and tomorrow for the Matt Dyas Invitational. The women's basketball team scrimmaged against Mississippi Valley State University yesterday, and they travel to Oxford to scrimmage against University of Mississippi on Friday. The men's basketball team scrimmages against University of Montevallo today and Mississippi Valley State University on Thursday. The first games for both basketball teams are November 11. The Department of Athletics will host a "Meet the Statesmen" event tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Sillers Coliseum to introduce winter-sports athletes.
- Dr. Armstrong informed Cabinet members a new President-Elect for Faculty Senate was elected at the last meeting. Dr. Chris Jurgenson will serve as President of Faculty Senate for 2023-24.
- Mr. Rutledge shared an update on Facilities projects. The H. L. Nowell Student Union is without heat, and Mr. Rutledge is working with the Bureau of Buildings to grant this as an emergency project in order to proceed with a fix. Mr. Rutledge stated \$400,000 of bond funds are not being used, and therefore can be used to purchase a new HVAC system for the Union. Once the supplies are received, the project

will take three weeks to complete. The roof repair on Whitfield Hall is complete. The School of Nursing parking lot is completed and in use. The architect for the School of Nursing project found red shingles for the roof; however, the entire roof will need to be redone in order for all shingles to match. The architect cannot find the "Delta State" bricks to match other buildings on campus; however, the bricks used on the Zeigel Hall renovation are available. If the bricks used on the Zeigel Hall renovation are used, the remainder of the building can be stained to look like the new brick. Plans for the Bologna Performing Arts Center will be ready for review in a few weeks. The demolition of the Court of Governors could be completed by end of year. Mr. Rutledge stated the university will use ARPA funds to install a new pump on the west side of campus to help with drainage issues. The Hugh White Hall arches have bricks separating from the structure. Mr. Rutledge submitted an emergency work order with the Bureau of Buildings to remove the bricks.

- A few members of the Executive Committee attended the IHL Board meeting at the University of Mississippi last week. Dr. Lovin shared the Chief Student Affairs Officers are having many discussions on the mental health of students at each respective institution, and the possibility of providing additional mental health services to students. Mr. Rutledge stated the IHL Board has formulated an audit for university contracts. Beginning next year, each university's contracts will be audited to ensure compliance. Contracts compliance will be included on each Institutional Executive Officers bi-annual evaluation going forward.
- Ms. Chacon Habis shared an update on Student Government Association activities. Approximately 1,200 students voted in the run-off election for Homecoming Queen. All Cabinet members are invited to attend the Homecoming events for students next week.

CABINET TOPIC

Homecoming Dr. Lovin, Ms. Chacon Habis, Mr. Kinnison, and Mr. Munroe

Ms. Elizabeth Branton and Ms. Amanda Robinson led a discussion of their respective department's plans for Homecoming Week 2022. The student's theme for Homecoming is "Under the Big Top: Green and White Edition," and activities are scheduled Monday through Friday. On Monday and Tuesday, students can partake in pumpkin spice lattes and coffee in the Union at Delta Drip and a rice-krispie bar on the Quadrangle, respectively. On Wednesday, students can donate to charity by participating in "Pie a Greek." The annual Lip Sync Battle occurs Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in Walter Sillers Coliseum. Students can partake in a carnival on the Quadrangle on Thursday from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The pep rally will take place on Friday night at McCool Stadium at 7:00 p.m. The final day of events is Saturday with the Homecoming parade and the football game. The alumni activities begin on Friday, November 4. At 1:30 p.m., the Foundation will host a reception at the President's home to announce the establishment of the Mark Houston Award in the College of Business and Aviation. Immediately following, the Foundation will host a naming ceremony for the John Yurkow, Jr. and John P. Quon Accountancy Program in Keener Hall. The Golden Circle and Alumni Award Winner social events begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Cotton House, followed by the Alumni Awards Gala and Golden Circle Induction at 7:00 p.m. The Department of Music's Alumni Choir will perform at the Alumni Awards Gala Friday evening. On Saturday, alumni have several events to participate in including: Golden Circle and Veterans Breakfast; Veterans Program; Department of Music Reunion; Homecoming Parade; tailgating at Statesmen Park; and the football game. Dr. Griffin announced the Kent Wyatt Distinguished Lecture Series will be held on Friday at 12:00 p.m. in Jacob Conference Center. The College of Education and Human Sciences' Alumnus of the Year will be recognized at this time.

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

Campus Forums..... Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts announced the Fall 2022 Campus Forum will be held on Tuesday, November 15 at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Jobe Hall. If Cabinet members have suggested topics of discussion, please send them to Ms. Cole by Wednesday, November 2. At this time, a forum for students will not be held in the Fall; however, a forum for students can be held in the Spring, if requested.

Institutional Effectiveness and Planning..... Dr. Novobilski

Dr. Novobilski informed Cabinet members that Dr. Josie Welsh will interview for the position of Associate Provost. Cabinet members will meet with her on Thursday as part of her interview process. Ms. Chacon Habis informed Cabinet members her Cabinet met with Dr. Welsh today to discuss the Quality Enhancement Plan.

Use of Search Firm..... Dr. Lovin

The Office of Admissions is currently without a Director. Dr. Lovin announced he will be utilizing a search firm to conduct a national search due to having an unsuccessful institutional search. The Executive Committee granted Dr. Lovin permission to use half of the Director of Admissions' salary to pay for the search firm.

Recruitment Update/Overview..... Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin provided an update and overview of recruitment. He shared data for admissions trends for Fall 2023. The Office of Admissions has 30,000 open opportunities in Recruit for Fall 2023. Dr. Lovin and the Office of Information Technology provided access to Recruit to each Dean and their administrative assistants to view opportunities available to their respective college or school.

Budget Update Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge has begun preparing the September 30 budget-to-actual report. He will provide this report to the Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration candidates in order to provide them with additional information about the university.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Miss Delta State University Scholarship Competition, October 27, 7:00 p.m., BPAC
- Early Registration Week, October 31 – November 4
- Homecoming Week, October 31 – November 5
- Little River Band, November 3, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Announcement of the Mark Houston Award in the COBA, November 4, 1:30 p.m., President's Home
- Dedication of John Yurkow, Jr. and John P. Quon Accountancy Program, November 4, 2:30 p.m., Broom Hall
- Alumni Awards Gala and Golden Circle Induction, November 4, 7:00 p.m., Cotton House
- Veterans Program, November 5, 9:00 a.m., Jobe Hall Auditorium

- Delta State Homecoming Parade, November 5, 10:30 a.m.
- President's Football Reception, November 5, 1:30 p.m., Dorgan Center
- Delta State vs. University of West Georgia, November 5, 2:00 p.m., Parker Field (Wear Green)

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, November 7, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.