

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: September 17, 2018

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

Members not in attendance: Mr. Charlie King, Dr. Billy Moore, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge

Guests: Mr. Merritt Dain, Director of Recruiting
Mr. Jeffrey Farris, Director, Development
Ms. Emily Jones, University Archivist
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 September 17, 2018. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Mayers and seconded by Mr. Munroe, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on September 10, 2018.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge welcomed Ms. Emily Jones to share with Cabinet members plans for Delta State's 93rd Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday. Ms. Jones said the event will take place at 12:00 noon on the second floor, east lobby, of the H.L. Nowell Student Union. Speakers include: President LaForge, Mr. King, and Dr. Johnny Arnold, who will talk about what it was like to be a student at Delta State in the 1950's. President LaForge will announce a six-figure gift during the program. The Wind Ensemble will perform, and Mr. Matt Jones will serve as emcee. Following the program, lunch and cake will be served in the west lobby.
- President LaForge welcomed Mr. Jeffrey Farris, Ms. Aimee Robinette, and Ms. Amanda Robinson to share with Cabinet members plans for Pig Pickin', which is scheduled for Friday and Saturday. Ms. Robinson shared the information available on the event website, www.dsupigpickin.com, which includes the event schedule and information on the BBQ competition and sponsorships. Ms. Robinson distributed copies of the event schedule as well as a map showing where the various tents will be located at Statesmen Park. This is the second year the event will be a Memphis in May sanctioned event. There are 32 cooking teams registered. The band will stop playing at 11:00 p.m. on Friday, and they will close down all activity at midnight on both Friday and Saturday.
- President LaForge welcomed Mr. Merritt Dain to discuss plans for DSU Day, which will take place on Saturday. Mr. Dain stated that 103 prospective students have registered, and they anticipate that another 30 will register. The day will include a tour of various departments on campus as well as an opportunity to participate in Pig Pickin' activities and to attend the football game. Mr. Mayers

recommended adjusting the DSU Day schedule next year so that participants can attend the pep rally and more of the Pig Pickin' activities.

- President LaForge announced that Ms. Nora Miller was named President of the Mississippi University for Women. He said that he has enjoyed working with her in her role as Interim President, and he believes she will do a great job as President.
- Last week, President LaForge attended Mayor Errick Simmons' Blues Reception at Harlow's Casino in honor of the 41st annual Mississippi Delta Blues and Heritage Festival. He said it was a great event, and was well attended. He also attended a lunch meeting with Mr. Jon Peede, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Mr. Vincent Ricardel, Senior Adviser to the Chairman, Dr. Stuart Rockoff, Executive Director of the Mississippi Humanities Council, and Mr. Craig Ray, Executive Director of Visit Mississippi, regarding a possible infrastructure grant to transform Hugh White Hall into the proposed Mississippi Delta Cultural Heritage Center. This proposed project has been identified as a priority area in Delta State's capital campaign plans.
- President LaForge had a Campaign Update meeting with Ambassador Mike Retzer last week. Mr. Retzer owns 101 McDonalds restaurants, and has been a steady donor to the College of Business.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. He announced that Mr. Doug Pinkerton is going to represent Delta State at the United Way luncheon on Tuesday. Mr. Zach Zediker, who was the top golfer last year, won the Murray State Invitational last week with an individual score of last 68/70/65. The men and women's swim teams lost their season opener to the University of Alabama last Friday in Alabama. Women's soccer won against University of Alabama in Huntsville on Friday, but the men's team lost. Both men's and women's soccer teams lost to West Alabama on Sunday. The football team lost on the road to Florida Tech. They play at home this weekend against North Greenville State University. Men and women's soccer play on Friday against Mississippi College. Delta State will host the Mississippi Private School State Swimming championship meet on Wednesday.
- President LaForge met with Mr. Tom Pittman, CEO of the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi this morning and provided him an update on the campaign.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meeting and events planned for the week. The Madison Center is sponsoring three lectures for Constitution Week. One lecture will take place tonight and another one is scheduled for tomorrow night. President LaForge will have a campaign call on Tuesday with Mr. Ned Mitchell. The Lee Ann Womack performance will take place at the BPAC at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday. President LaForge will welcome participants and guests to the Mississippi Private School State Swimming championship on Wednesday morning, and he will host his second faculty/staff luncheon at noon on Wednesday. President LaForge will participate in a NCAA Division II Planning and Finance committee teleconference on Thursday regarding grant updates and a potential joint championship in men and women's basketball. On Thursday, President LaForge will meet with Mr. David Robinson, CEO and co-owner of Robinson Electric, and his son Mark Robinson, as well as with Mr. Hal Burt, President of The Retzer Companies, regarding campaign updates.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Hiring RequestDr. 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. McAdams brought to Cabinet two positions for consideration. The positions presented do not impact the salary savings identified previously to address the budget shortfall.

Academic Affairs Requests

The Student Success Center requests to hire two full-time staff for their Okra Scholars program: 1) Academic/Career Support Associate and 2) Project Assistant. Salaries and benefits are paid from external funds, Fund 10.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the searching and hiring of two positions in the Student Success Center for FY19 and seconded by Mr. Mayers. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Enrollment ReportPresident LaForge

President LaForge shared with Cabinet member the enrollment report that IHL distributed last week. The preliminary enrollment report for Fall 2018 shows that enrollment for the IHL system decreased by one percent. Delta State’s preliminary enrollment report shows that our enrollment is basically flat, with a decrease of five students.

Additional information

- President LaForge announced that Mr. Gerald Jacks passed away on Saturday. His memorial service is scheduled for Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. at their family farm.
- Mr. Munroe announced that his office has hired a company to conduct an Economic Impact Study.
- Mr. Mayers announced that Mr. Bo Petro, Tennis Pro at the Cleveland Country Club, has been hired as Delta State’s new tennis coach.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Delta State’s 93rd Anniversary Celebration, September 18, 12:00 noon, Second floor, East Lobby, H.L. Nowell Union
- Lee Ann Womack performance, September 18, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Pig Pickin Weekend, September 21-22
- Delta State football vs. North Greenville University, September 22, 6:00 p.m. (wear green), Parker Field. President’s Reception at 5:30 p.m., Dorgan Center.
- Colloquia Series Lecture with Dr. Mark Emmert, President of NCAA, October 9, 6:00 p.m., Jobe Hall
- International Business Symposium, October 11-12

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, September 24 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Budget management reports (Mr. Rutledge)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.