

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: September 18, 2019**

**Members in attendance:** President William LaForge, Dr. Vernell Bennett, Ms. Tricia Killebrew, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Charles McAdams, Dr. Beverly Moon, Mr. Rick Munroe, Mr. Cetin Oguz, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, and Ms. Elizabeth Swindle (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

**Members not in attendance:** None

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on September 18, 2019. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Ms. Swindle and seconded by Mr. Rutledge, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on September 9, 2019.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from the past week. President LaForge hosted his first Faculty and Staff Luncheon of the semester, and he met with the development firm for the golf course. President LaForge and Mr. Kinnison attended the 2019 Delta Conversation featuring Mr. Archie Manning and hosted by the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi. President LaForge and Dr. McAdams visited with a Colombian graduate student who is visiting the United States and doing a research at Delta State for two months. DSU LEADS invited President LaForge to lead their discussion on strategic thinking. Commissioner Al Rankins called a teleconference last week to discuss enrollment figures with all university presidents. Enrollment figures won't be released or given to IPEDS until after November 1.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The pre-conference meeting for the roofing project on the Fielding-Wright Art Center/Holcombe-Norwood Hall took place last week, and construction will begin 40 days from last Tuesday. The materials for the project will occupy a portion of the Jobe Hall parking lot, and a few classes will be moved to other classrooms in order to avoid disturbances. The first part of the roofing project on Walter-Sillers Coliseum is complete, and the crew will now work on putting on the new roof. The next steps will be installing the HVAC systems, working with the architect on choosing a new sound system, and Robinson Electric Robinson replacing all lights within the coliseum. Cain-Tatum Hall, Lawler-Harkins Hall, and Whitfield Hall (DMI) are all getting roof repairs. Mr. Rutledge hopes to bring a plan to Cabinet in the coming weeks for the \$7.3 million bonds.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The football team lost to Grand Valley State University over the weekend, and they will compete against Florida Tech on Saturday. The swimming and diving team competed against the University of Alabama over the weekend. The women's soccer team competed lost to Florida Tech and tied with Florida Southern College, and they will compete on Thursday and

Saturday against Ouachita Baptist University and Harding University, respectively. The men's soccer team won against Ouachita Baptist University and Harding University last week. The cross country team placed 4<sup>th</sup> at Loyola. The Hall of Fame Committee convenes Saturday morning to choose this year's inductees, and it will be announced at Homecoming.

- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. Delta State celebrated its 94<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Monday. President LaForge had a cultivation visit with Ms. Anita Bologna this morning. President LaForge will visit Bayou Academy tomorrow to recruit. The BPAC performance of Craig Morgan occurs Thursday evening, and President LaForge and Mr. Rutledge will travel to West Point on Friday for the IHL Board Retreat. Dr. Bennett informed Cabinet members 407 students are registered for Fall Preview Day; however, 240 students and 360 guests are confirmed. Mr. Munroe announced Pig Pickin' sales are going well for t-shirts and bbq tickets, and Ms. Swindle stated SGA will pay for security to extend the hours Statesmen Park is open on Friday and Saturday nights.

### **CABINET TOPIC**

#### **Visioning Principles Goals for 2019-20..... Dr. Bennett, Dr. McAdams, and Dr. Roberts**

Dr. Bennett, Dr. McAdams, and Dr. Roberts presented to Cabinet Members their respective goals for FY20 in support of Visioning Goals one through four and ten. (*see reports*)

### **BUSINESS**

#### **Action**

#### **Faculty Annual Evaluation policy (new – first reading).....Dr. McAdams**

On the recommendation of Academic Council, Dr. McAdams brought the new Faculty Annual Evaluation policy to Cabinet for a first reading. The Academic Council received a recommendation from Faculty Senate to modify the time frame in which faculty are evaluated. Prior to the creation of this policy, faculty were evaluated from April 1 through March 31. The new evaluation period is January 1 through December 31.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the Faculty Annual Evaluation policy for a first reading and seconded by Dr. Moon. The motion was approved.

#### **Distance Education policy (revised – first reading).....Dr. McAdams**

On the recommendation of Academic Council, Dr. McAdams brought the revised Distance Education policy to Cabinet for a first reading. The revisions made to this policy were presented to Academic Council by the Distance Education Committee, and the revisions included 1) updating the policy to reflect current practice, and 2) a refined review process based on identified best practices and accepted national standards as outlined by Quality Matters.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the revised Distance Education policy for a first reading and seconded by Ms. Swindle. The motion was approved.

#### **Grades and Credits policy (revised – first reading) .....Dr. McAdams**

On the recommendation of Academic Council, Dr. McAdams brought the revised Grades and Credits policy to Cabinet for a first reading. The two primary changes made to the policy were a clearer definition of the grade "I" and an update to the accepted credit by examination options.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the revised Grades and Credits policy for a first reading and seconded by Dr. Moon. The motion was approved.

**Scholastic Honors policy (revised – first reading).....Dr. McAdams**

On the recommendation of Academic Council, Dr. McAdams brought to Cabinet the revised Scholastic Honors policy for a first reading. The Scholastic Honors policy was revised in order to provide parity between the policy and the Academic Catalogs. One substantive change was made to the policy, and it was a change in the semester hours of academic credits required for the Doyce Stallings Mitchell Honor Diploma from 62 to 60.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the revised Scholastic Honors policy for a first reading and seconded by Dr. Moon. The motion was approved.

**Discussion**

**Enrollment Update .....Dr. Bennett**

Dr. Bennett shared with Cabinet members an update on enrollment figures. All recruitment dates are online, and faculty have been encouraged to review the dates and be present to help recruit students on these days. The Office of Admissions needs additional inquiries in the Recruit system. Any time students are on campus for recruitment events, the student is encouraged to join the Statesmen Club in order to get their information into Recruit.

**Additional information**

- Student Government Association added knights to the Homecoming court.
- Dr. Bennett announced donations for the Statesmen Shelf Food Pantry will be collected at Pig Pickin’.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Craig Morgan, September 19, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Pig Pickin’, September 20-21, Statesmen Park
- Fall Preview Day, September 21, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Delta State football vs. Florida Tech University, September 21, 2:00 p.m., Parker Field. President’s Reception at 1:30 p.m., Dorgan Center.
- Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, September 26, 5:30 p.m., Cotton House
- International Conference on the Blues, October 3-4
- Kool and the Gang, October 3, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, September 23 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Visioning Principles Goals for 2019-20 (Mr. Kinnison, Mr. Munroe, Mr. Rutledge)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.