

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: September 30, 2019

- Members in attendance:** President William LaForge, Ms. Tricia Killebrew, Mr. Rick Munroe, Mr. Cetin Oguz, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, and Ms. Elizabeth Swindle (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)
- Members not in attendance:** Dr. Vernell Bennett, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Charles McAdams, and Dr. Beverly Moon
- Guests:** Dr. Shelley Collins, Co-Chair, International Conference on the Blues
Mr. Don Allan Mitchell, Co-Chair, International Conference on the Blues

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on September 30, 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 23, 2019.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Shelley Collins and Mr. Don Allan Mitchell, co-chairs of the International Conference on the Blues, gave an overview of the upcoming conference. The conference is Friday, and the committee has planned a full day of paper sessions, master classes, a main performance by the Como Mamas at the Bolivar County Courthouse, and a Blues in the Round Session at Mississippi Grounds to finish the day.
- President LaForge gave an overview of the activities and events from the past week. President LaForge and Dr. McAdams had a phone call with State Auditor Shad White last week to discuss the Blues Commission audit. The Department of Commercial Aviation hosted FedEx representatives for FedEx Takeover Day and recognized the inaugural FedEx Purple Runway Aviation Scholarship Program recipients. The Scholarship Management Task Force met for the first time last week, and Dr. Roberts stated they would meet every other week until the end of the semester. Ms. Christie Rocconi will help in this process beginning next week. President LaForge met with Mr. Jim Fram, a consultant for the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce, to discuss Delta State's role in the community as he reviews the Chamber's plans going forward. GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi hosted An Evening with Garth Brooks last week. The Foundation Task Force met last week, and the task force is prepared to start writing and submitting grants. The Winning the Race Planning Committee met last week to continue discussions for the 2020 conference. President LaForge participated in a NCAA DII Planning and Finance Committee teleconference. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce hosted their Annual Recognition Social last week, and a few members of the Delta State family were recognized.
- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The replacement of interior lights in

Walter Sillers Coliseum was completed last week, and a visit to Mississippi Valley State University will occur this week to look at their sound system to see if it is suitable for our needs. The roofing materials for Fielding-Wright Art Center/Holcombe-Norwood Hall and Facilities Management Building arrive this week, and construction will begin on October 15. The construction drawings for the Mayers Aquatics Center should be approved by October 20. Construction on the new President's home is on schedule. A conference call occurs tomorrow between Delta State, IHL staff, developers, and potential vendors for the feasibility study of the golf course. Brumby Castle Hall and Wyatt Gym received new LED bulbs as part of the lighting project, and the university received a reimbursement allowing the project to not cost the university any money.

- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. The Executive Committee for the Gulf South Conference had a teleconference this morning. Two points of discussion were a replacement for President LaForge on the council and expanding the conference. Coach Mike Nienaber will be the guest speaker at President LaForge's Leadership class on Tuesday. President LaForge will host a Faculty and Staff luncheon on Thursday, and the BPAC will host a performance of Kool and the Gang in conjunction with the International Conference on the Blues. The International Conference on the Blues begins Friday morning.

CABINET TOPIC

Visioning Principles Goals for 2019-20 Ms. Killebrew, Mr. Oguz, and Ms. Swindle
Ms. Killebrew, Mr. Oguz, and Ms. Swindle presented to Cabinet Members their respective goals for FY20 in support of Visioning Goals one, two, nine, and ten. (*see reports*)

BUSINESS

Action

IHL's Alumni Advocacy GroupMr. Munroe

At the request of IHL, each Institutional Executive Officer was requested to comprise a list of five to eight alumni that could be called upon annually to help advocate on the behalf of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. The Alumni Advocacy Group will meet annually prior to the legislative session to learn of the priorities of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. The main goal of the alumni advocates will be to engage with legislators and other state officials at the direction of their respective Institutional Executive Officer. Delta State's slate of participants for IHL's Alumni Advocacy Group will be Mr. Patrick Davis, Dr. Ned Mitchell, The Honorable Billy Nowell, Mr. Butch Scipper, Mr. Judson Thigpen, and Dr. Kent Wyatt.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Munroe to endorse the slate for IHL's Alumni Advocacy Group and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. The motion was approved.

Discussion

Internal AuditsPresident LaForge

President LaForge gave an update on the internal audits conducted by Internal Auditor Mrs. Mary Helen Varner. She has been auditing the Athletic Department, and she has been using a checklist created by the

NCAA. She will be following up on a previous audit on data management specifically dealing with disaster recovery. Her next audits will be within Communications and Marketing, bank reconciliations, and GIT.

Additional information

- Ms. Swindle announced voting for Homecoming Court takes place next Monday and Tuesday.
- Mr. Rutledge stated the Bureau of Buildings finished replacing the booths in the Young-Mauldin Cafeteria. Also, Lawler-Harkins Hall will receive new HVAC units.
- Mr. Munroe gave an update on the Foundation's phone-a-thon. Only non-donors are being called at this time, and \$8,000 has been raised plus 201 pledges.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- International Conference on the Blues, October 3-4
- Kool and the Gang, October 3, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Delta State football vs. Valdosta State University, October 12, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field. President's Reception at 5:30 p.m., Dorgan Center
- Delta State football vs. University of West Alabama, October 19, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field. President's Reception at 5:30 p.m., Dorgan Center

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, October 7 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Budget Update (Mr. Rutledge)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.