

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: September 4, 2018

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

Members not in attendance: Dr. Severine Groh

Guests: Mr. Merritt Dain, Director, Recruiting
Mr. Jeff Johns, Chief, Police Department
Mr. Jim Miller, Director, Career Services

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on September 4, 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. King, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on August 27, 2018.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Bennett introduced two new employees: Mr. Merritt Dain, Director of Recruiting and Mr. Jim Miller, Director of Career Services. Cabinet members welcomed them to Delta State.
- Last week, President LaForge met with Ms. Emily Havens and Mr. Chace Holland with GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi regarding a possible partnership with the BPAC on another large outdoor concert, similar to the previous Band Perry concert we hosted three years ago. Delta State will receive 50% of the profit received.
- President LaForge hosted his first faculty/staff lunch of the semester last week. He said he enjoyed visiting with the attendees, and it was a great first lunch for the semester.
- The Boz Scaggs performance took place on Tuesday at the BPAC. President LaForge said it was a great performance and was well attended.
- The Okra Works Job Fair took place on Wednesday. Dr. Bennet stated that 20 employers had signed up, but there were five no-shows. However, student participation was excellent, with 101 participants.
- The annual Legislative Facilities Tour meeting and dinner took place on Wednesday of last week. Representatives from the Bureau of Building, Institutions of Higher Learning, and Legislative Budget Office were in attendance. Legislators were unable to attend due to the Special Session.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. The football team plays their first home game on Saturday against Grand Valley State University. Grand Valley has one of the top football programs in Division II, and plans to bring a big group. Statesman Boulevard is finished except for the striping. The women's soccer team's first game of the season was against Mississippi University for Women (MUW). This was

the first time MUW has played a match since reinstating athletics.

- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Zeigel Hall is completely finished. They received the furniture for the facility last week. They also completed the landscaping, except for the grass. The Dining Hall should be complete the middle of the month. They have also completed the landscaping for Caylor/White-Walters Hall. Mr. Rutledge reported that they have a chiller down, and so the temperature in some of the buildings is warmer than usual.
- This week, President LaForge has two cultivation visits scheduled: Dr. Bennie Wright on Wednesday and Mrs. Margaret Walker Hays on Thursday. GRAMMY Museum Mississippi will host an event on Thursday evening for the establishment of the Willie Simmons Society Endowment Fund.
- President LaForge asked Cabinet Members to provide personnel updates. Mr. Munroe stated that the person he had hired as the Annual Fund Director backed out. The new Academic Development Officer, Ms. Nerma Morris, starts tomorrow. In the Communications and Marketing office, they are interviewing for the writer and graphic designer positions. Mr. Mayers stated they are interviewing for the Tennis Coach this week.

CABINET TOPIC

Protocol for Lowering the Flags.....Dr. Bennett

Dr. Bennet introduced and welcomed Mr. Jeff Johns, Chief of Police, to discuss the protocol for lowering the flags. Chief Johns distributed proposed language for a policy. Cabinet members thanked Chief Johns for putting together the information, and asked that additional information be included, such as: roles of each office, method for distributing the information, and reasons for lowering the flags. Dr. Bennett will bring the policy to the Cabinet for consideration once the additional information has been added.

BUSINESS

Action

Sophomore ResidencyDr. Bennett

As a follow-up to last week’s discussion of the sophomore residency requirement, Dr. Bennett met with Mr. Rutledge and Mr. Jeff Barkman regarding the state of the residence halls. Mr. Barkman said the issues could be addressed and would not be costly. Mr. Rutledge said there is a housing fund in place to cover cost of repairs. Regarding meal plan options, Mr. Rutledge said the number of students with meal plans has decreased. He is getting ready to send out a new RFP for a food service provider, and it will include providing options for sophomores. However, it’s up to the vendor as to whether they are willing to provide the options. Mr. King reported on his meeting with the SGA Cabinet regarding this issue. Their concerns are twofold: 1) it takes Facilities Management a long time to address work orders, and 2) security issues in Brumby-Castle. Cabinet members suggested the need to do a better job of marketing the residence hall experience and to dispel the misconception that living off-campus is less expensive. Mr. Mayers stated that the coaches are concerned that the new requirement may negatively impact their recruiting efforts. Cabinet members suggested reviewing the requirements for certain institutional scholarships to determine if they should include a requirement to live on-campus.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Bennett to require sophomores to live on campus, effective with the Fall 2019 semester, and seconded by Dr. Roberts. The motion was approved with seven yays and two nays.

SACS Student Completion IndicatorDr. McAdams

Dr. McAdams distributed a document summarizing the process and options for the SACSCOC Student

Completion Indicators. SACSCOC requires every institution to select a key student completion metric for analysis. We must select from the four options. Options #1 and #2 are basically the same and use the IPEDS 6-year graduation rate. Option #4 is not a viable option because the data has been unreliable and inconsistent. President LaForge said this issue was discussed at last month's IEO meeting. IHL staff said to review the options carefully because one option can have a positive result in the short-term, but have a bad result in the long-term, or vice-versa.

Motion: Moved by Dr. McAdams to select the 6-year graduation rate (Option #2) as Delta State's student completion indicator, and seconded by Mr. Rutledge. The motion was approved.

Discussion

Professional AttirePresident LaForge

President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members an email that was distributed to the campus last year from the Human Resources department as a reminder that employees should dress professionally in the workplace. Cabinet members discussed the need to provide more direction to offices, especially as it relates to the appropriateness of wearing jeans and t-shirts. President LaForge asked Mr. Rutledge to have the Director of Human Resources to review this matter, and to provide a recommendation to the Cabinet regarding the right balance in order to maintain professionalism in the workplace.

Enrollment UpdateDr. Bennett

Dr. Bennett distributed to Cabinet Members an enrollment report, as of Saturday. Enrollment will likely be about the same as it was last fall. Dual credit numbers will likely be up again this year.

Additional information

- Dr. Riddle announced that the August employee of the month was Mr. Richard Little, who works in Facilities Management.
- Mr. Rutledge stated that there was a breach in the Payroll system, and the FBI was on campus last week to determine the culprit.
- Mr. Munroe announced that the Print Shop doubled their income for month of August.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Delta State football vs. Grand Valley State, September 8, 6:00 p.m. (wear green), Parker Field. President's Reception at 5:30 p.m., Dorgan Center.
- 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
- Colloquia Series Lecture with Dr. Mark Emmert, President of NCAA, October 9, 6:00 p.m., Jobe Hall

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, September 10 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Technology Update (Mr. Rutledge)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.