

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: April 13, 2015

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Wayne Blansett, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Dr. David Hebert, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Mr. Steve McClellan, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jeff Slagell, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Mr. Mikel Sykes, and Ms. Leigh Emerson.

Absent: Dr. Debbie Heslep and Dr. Myrtis Tabb

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on April 13, 2015. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge presented to Mr. Sykes a copy of the minutes and a video of the IHL Board's March meeting where they commended him for his interview on CNN.
- President LaForge announced funding has been received from Mr. Charlie McGuffee to use on a special project, and so we are going to use the money to renovate the SGA offices in the Union during the summer break.
- President LaForge attended the ODK initiation last week, and also met with the Student Presidents' Council group.
- President LaForge traveled to Jackson last week and had several meetings with donors, alumni, and media groups. He also did some recruiting while he was in town. He visited Madison-Ridgeland Academy, attended the Jackson Preview Night, and visited with Park Place Christian Academy and Brandon High School. He had lunch with Charlie McGuffee and Woody Bounds regarding a donation to the Mississippi State University Dudy Noble Stadium project in honor of David M. "Boo" Ferriss. He had breakfast with alumni Renee Deweese, Rob Armour, Arthur Johnston, John Fletcher, Butch Hammack, Mark Houston, and John Kaiser. He also had lunch with Frank Drennan, owner of Capital City Beverages, and he met with Maureen Smith, Director of Communications, at the Catholic Diocese.
- President LaForge judged the Phi Mu/Sigma Alpha Epsilon "Miracle Man Pageant" last week. The proceeds from the pageant will support the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.
- President LaForge had a conference call with the Gulf South Conference Executive Committee Board, and everything is going well.
- President LaForge welcomed 52 future Delta State Phi Theta Kappa students to campus for their early Registration day.
- President LaForge attended the College of Business' Academic Excellence Awards Banquet.
- President LaForge hosted his final First Friday Faculty meetings for the semester, and he visited with Dr. Ali Reza, Wildlife Management; Jack Phillips, Language and Literature; Dr. Joe Bentley, Physical Sciences; and Dr. Alina Gabryszewska-Kukawa, Planetarium.
- This morning, President LaForge gave a welcome to the TFA Operations Directors and thanked them for their continued relationship with Delta State. He also welcomed a group of seniors from Clarksdale High School to campus.

- President LaForge will meet with Dr. Billy Moore in the College of Business to discuss a proposed Finance Trading Lab.
- President LaForge will be the guest speaker for the Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony tonight at Northwest Mississippi Community College.
- President LaForge announced the arrangements for Dr. Joe Garrison’s visitation and funeral services. A moment of silence was held in his memory.
- President LaForge will have lunch and visit with Coahoma Community College students, faculty, and staff this week.
- President LaForge announced that Springfest will be held on Wednesday. It will be on the Quad or in Wyatt Gym if it rains. They will also show the movie “American Sniper” in the BPAC that evening for the students.
- President LaForge will attend a farewell reception and dinner for the four IHL Board Trustees that are rotating off of the Board: Mr. Ed Blakeslee, Mr. Bob Owens, Mr. Aubrey Patterson, and Ms. Robin Robinson. He will also attend the IHL Board meeting on Thursday.
- President LaForge announced Dr. Charles McAdams will conduct the Department of Music’s Spring Band Concert on Thursday, and he encouraged everyone to attend.
- On Friday, President LaForge will attend the Inauguration for Dr. Al Rankins at Alcorn State University, and Dr. Gary Bouse will represent Delta State at the Inauguration of Dwaun Warmack, DSU alumnus, at Harris-Stowe State University.
- President LaForge and Dr. Michelle Roberts will visit with the congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. on April 20-21.
- President LaForge announced the date for the three Campus Forums has been changed to April 29.
- President LaForge discussed the rotation schedule for Cabinet members. The Faculty Senate and Staff Council representatives will officially change in July after our budget discussions, but both the new and past representatives will attend until then. President LaForge welcomed Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, the new Faculty Senate President, to her first Cabinet meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Slagell, seconded by Dr. Blansett, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on April 6, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

Budget Process: Presentation of New Initiatives..... Cabinet

Each of President LaForge’s direct reports presented their requests, in priority order, for new initiatives.

Academic Affairs - total request \$1,038,303 (see presentation for listing)

Athletics - University Field \$17K, Various Equipment \$150K, Aquatics Center \$290K, Delta Field \$600K, McCool Stadium Lights \$700K, Chadwick Dixon Repairs \$100K, Scholarships \$178K, and Academic Advisor \$40K

University Relations - Advertising \$40K, Graphic Designer \$39K, News Media position \$39K

Student Affairs - Restrooms in Brumby-Castle and Lawler-Harkins, security cameras for residence halls, upgrade staff positions from part-time to full-time (see handout for remainder)

Finance and Administration - one time requests \$269K, on-going requests \$115K

Enrollment Services - CRM Specialist \$38K, Transfer Recruiter \$28K

For the next budget discussion, each person is to draw a line for what is absolutely necessary to keep on top of the list, and to submit those top items to Mr. McClellan by Wednesday. He will compile all of the lists into one document, and bring them back to Cabinet for review.

BUSINESS

Mississippi Economic Council’s Annual Meeting Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts discussed our sponsorship of the meeting which will be held on Thursday, April 30th in Jackson. Delta State alumnus, Mr. David Abney, is the keynote speaker. She reported that we have eight seats available, and asked Cabinet Members to contact Mrs. Emerson if they would like to attend.

Discussion

- President LaForge asked Mr. McClellan to thank the Facilities Management Grounds Crew for the excellent job they are doing with the campus.
- Dr. Roberts discussed the legislative session. Our previous line items in the budget were approved: Aviation, Delta Center, and E-learning. The Delta Music Institute received line-item funding this year, as well. Delta State is scheduled to receive \$408,099 for capital improvements, and it is estimated that Delta State will receive funding for a 2.22% salary increase.
- Mr. Sykes reported that the newly-elected SGA officers will finalize their appointments by the end of the week.
- Mr. McClellan announced that budget continuation worksheets will be distributed to the campus tomorrow. They will distribute the Fund 10 budget sheets first, followed by the auxiliary budget sheets.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Retirement and Service Award Program, April 24, 2:00 pm. Union 2nd Floor Lobby
- Dr. Wayne Blansett Retirement Reception, April 25, 3:00 pm, KWH Atrium
- BPAC Performance of Million Dollar Quartet, April 28, 7:30 pm, BPAC
- Dinner for Honorary Degree Recipient - David Abney, May 8, 5:30 pm, KWH Atrium
- Spring Commencement, May 9, 10:00 am, Walter Sillers Coliseum
- Commencement Lunch, May 9, 12:00 pm, Simmons Room
- Staff Development Day, May 14, Jacob Conference Center/Walking Trail
- Lucy Howorth Woman of Achievement Ceremony, honoring Dorothy Shawhan, May 17

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, April 27, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Budget Process: Review of New Initiatives (Steve)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.