

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: December 1, 2014**

**Members in attendance:** President William LaForge, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Dr. David Hebert, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Mr. Steve McClellan, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Mikel Sykes, Dr. Myrtis Tabb, and Ms. Leigh Emerson.

**Members absent:** Dr. Wayne Blansett, Dr. Debbie Heslep, Mr. Jeff Slagell

**Guest:** Mr. Talbot Brooks (Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies) and Dr. David Breaux (Dean of Arts and Sciences)

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on December 1, 2014. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge asked that we keep Dr. Blansett and his family in our prayers. His sister, Bobbie Frances Malone, was killed in a vehicle accident. Cabinet members discussed doing something for Dr. Blansett in memory of Ms. Malone. The recommendation was made for Cabinet members to donate funds to Dr. Blansett's scholarship in Ms. Malone's name.
- President LaForge discussed the IHL Board meeting as well as the recruiting and media visits in which he participated last week while he was in Natchez and Vicksburg.
- President LaForge announced that the Pat Tigrett Fashion Show was a success, and he thanked Mr. Fulcher for his help in organizing the event. He also sent his thanks to the BPAC staff for their good work. Mr. Fulcher will let us know the total amount of scholarship money raised.
- President LaForge distributed an article from the Hechinger group about our recent program cuts. The article compared program cuts in Maine and Mississippi.
- President LaForge had an interview with writers with *The Skinny* publication. They asked questions about the budget cuts and other news items. He stated that it was a good meeting.
- President LaForge asked Mr. Mayers to give a wrap-up report on the football season. Mr. Mayers reported that we had a great season and were the co-conference champions. We made \$9,000 from ticket sales for Saturday's game. If we had won on Saturday, we would have hosted the next two rounds of playoff games.
- Mr. Mayers announced that a DSU swimmer was hit by a car while she was riding her bike across Fifth Avenue. She has been taken to Bolivar Medical Center, but the injuries do not appear to be too serious.
- President LaForge announced there are a lot of universities nationwide increasing tuition, and so we should be able to recruit some out-of-state students with our low tuition and no out-of-state fees. We need to find ways to recruit these students. We also need to settle on the "cost of attendance" figure we are publicizing.

- President LaForge announced we received a \$100,000 check from the Asbury Foundation of Hattiesburg for the School of Nursing. The gift is to recognize Bill Ray’s efforts in helping to establish the Nursing school. We also received \$75,000 from the Northwest Foundation of Mississippi as part of a \$250,000 commitment from the Gresham/McPherson families in Indianola.
- President LaForge announced that the Executive Committee is looking at the job description and committee members for the Vice President for Student Affairs position.
- We will not have a Cabinet meeting next week due to the SACS meeting. The next Cabinet meeting will be December 15.
- We received a proposal from the University of Southern Mississippi to partner with them and the University of Mississippi to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Music in the State. Dr. McAdams reported that Dr. Paul Hankins is taking the lead on this project for Delta State.
- President LaForge announced that we will have a lunch following commencement to honor our honorary degree recipient, former Governor William Winter. The Commencement speaker will be Dr. Mary Lenn Buchanan, the 2014 Kossman Award winner.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Dr. McAdams, seconded by Ms. Read, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on November 17, 2014.

**CABINET TOPIC**

**GIT Project with the United States Marine Corps and the United Nations**

**Summer Conference ..... Mr. Brooks/Dr. Breaux**

Mr. Brooks said we have an opportunity to offer on-line classes in the GIT program to the U.S. Marine Corps. It could significantly increase enrollment by 50% in the next four years. They need credentialing along with their training. We would work in partnership with Mississippi Delta Community College to get their Associates degree, and then transfer to Delta State to complete a baccalaureate degree. There are a lot of things to work out, but the pilot program would start in Spring 2015 with 16 students. Mr. Brooks said he will need a coordinator position to help with the additional workload.

We also have the opportunity to host a United Nations Summer Conference on our campus. They have \$45,000 in funding so far, but they need more funds and also assistance with planning the conference. Cabinet Members suggested to Talbot that he contact Lee Aylward and Robin Boyles to seek information and possible funding avenues to help with this project.

\* Executive Committee discuss possible funding sources for the GIT programs.

**BUSINESS**

**Policy on Named Demolished Buildings (First Reading)..... Dr. Tabb**

Dr. Tabb and her staff researched policies at other institutions and drafted a policy on what to do with the name of a building once it is demolished.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Tabb to add this statement to the Naming Policy, once approved, and seconded by Ms. Read. **The motion was approved.**

**Winter Holidays ..... Dr. Tabb**

Dr. Tabb discussed the schedule for the Winter Holidays. Due to the IHL Policy, we have only six additional days for the winter holidays, which means employees will have to work on Monday, December 22 and Friday, January 2 unless they take personal leave. Cabinet Members agreed that the university/offices must be open on these days; however, all employees do not have to be in the offices as long as the phones are answered and visitors are directed to the appropriate office.

**OIT Contract ..... Dr. Tabb**

Dr. Tabb stated that we entered into a bid process for our technology services, and Ellucian was the only company to submit a proposal. As a result, we will enter into a five-year contract with them, pending IHL Board approval.

**Discussion**

- Dr. Tabb announced that she, Lisa Giger, Lynn Buford, and a few others recently attended the Title IX training at the University of Southern Mississippi. There is a lot of national attention on this topic, and it will be something we give more attention to in the future.
- Ms. Read announced that Staff Council’s food drive was a huge success. They filled 94 bags with all of the items needed for a Thanksgiving meal for a family. Of the total, 42 of the bags went to Delta State employees. They will begin their Christmas Toy Drive next.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Christmas Tree Lighting party, December 2, 3:00 p.m., Kent Wyatt Hall
- Fall Commencement, December 13, 10:00 a.m., Sillers Coliseum
- Lunch for Honorary Degree recipient William Winter, December 13, Noon, Simmons Room, Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House
- Lloyd Clark Basketball Court Naming: Reception, January 10, 11:00 am, Simmons Room, Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni-Foundation House; Court Dedication, 1:30 pm, Walter Sillers Coliseum
- Delta State Day in Memphis (School Blitz), January 27
- Race Conference, March 30-31

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – December 15, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Emergency Preparedness “Desktop Exercise” (Dr. Blansett)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.