

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: April 11, 2016

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Libby Carlson, Dr. E.E. Caston, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: Mr. Mikel Sykes

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on April 11, 2016. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Caston, seconded by Mr. Mayers, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on March 28, 2016.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge welcomed the GSC Basketball Players of the Year—Ms. Chelsey Rhodes and Mr. Devin Schmidt. President LaForge expressed his appreciation for the wonderful contributions they make to Delta State. Mr. Mayers told Cabinet Members about their many accolades, and Coaches Craig Roden and Jim Boone bragged on the accomplishments of each student-athlete.
- President LaForge recognized and thanked the 2016 Race Conferences chairs—Dr. Temika Simmons and Dr. Garry Jennings—as well as staff assistant Ms. Elizabeth Joel for their great work with the Race Conference. He presented each of them with a gift from Delta State.
- Dr. Pete Walker, former administrator at Delta State for many years, passed away last week.
- President LaForge gave an update on the two Vice President searches stating each search produced wonderful candidates that would contribute greatly to Delta State. He stated each search is nearing completion.
- President LaForge distributed copies of the Campus Update he sent to the campus yesterday, which addressed House Bill 1523 and the recent chalking incident on campus.
- President LaForge served on a panel, with university presidents from Belhaven, Mississippi State University, Mississippi Valley State University, and Alcorn State University, for the Governor's Prayer Luncheon Summit to discuss why racism is passed on from generation to generation.
- President LaForge received a note from Congressman Thompson stating he enjoyed being a moderator for the Race Conference panel at the Opening Session.
- President LaForge informed Cabinet Members of a thank you note received from student Ms. Selena Nause. She received the President's Cabinet Award from the Delta State Student Art Exhibit for her piece *Pastel Snow Day*.
- President LaForge stated the International Business Symposium was an outstanding program and the College of Business did a great job planning it. President LaForge and his Executive Committee hosted a

breakfast for Mr. David Abney and the speakers on the second day of the Symposium.

- President LaForge stated Delta State had a great and full weekend. Go Green Weekend went well and many prospective students participated in the weekend’s events. President LaForge stated the first partnership with GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi, the Beatles Symposium, was great and well received.
- President LaForge informed Cabinet Members of Mr. Tom Tillar’s visit to Delta State to work with our Foundation Office to determine campaign readiness. Mr. Fulcher stated it was a great visit, and his staff received valuable information.
- President LaForge visited two Desoto County high schools last week—Lake Cormorant High School and Center Hill High School. He spoke with juniors at both schools, and will visit the last two Desoto County high schools next week. Also, President LaForge visited Greenville last week. He spoke to juniors and seniors at St. Joseph Catholic School and O’Bannon High School and had an interview with Tanya Cater of WABG.

CABINET TOPIC

Budget Process Update..... Mr. Rutledge

The Executive Committee is working on the priority list of budget items with regard to the different funding levels. Mr. Rutledge distributed the budget worksheets earlier today, and they are due back in two weeks. Dr. Roberts informed Cabinet Members that legislative conference reports must be filed by 8:00 pm on Saturday, and so we should know our budget situation next week.

BUSINESS

Action

Weapons on Campus policy - revised (Final Reading)Dr. Caston

Dr. Caston brought to Cabinet the “Weapons on Campus” policy for a final reading. The policy remains unchanged from the last meeting.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Caston to approve the final reading of the “Weapons on Campus” policy as presented and seconded by Dr. Roberts. **The motion was approved.**

Access to University Information Technology Resources policy (Final Reading)..... Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge brought to Cabinet the “Access to University Information Technology Resources” policy for a final reading. A change was made to the policy stating that student access would be deactivated six months after graduation.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the final reading of the “Access to University Information Technology Resources” policy as presented and seconded by Dr. McAdams. **The motion was approved.**

Holiday Schedule: 2016-17..... Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge distributed copies of the proposed 2016-17 Holiday Schedule. He informed Cabinet Members that the maximum number of holidays allowed by IHL for universities is fifteen days. Delta State’s 2016-17 holiday schedule reflects IHL’s holiday allowance.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the 2016-17 Holiday Schedule as presented and seconded by Dr. Roberts. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

IHL Board Meeting at Delta State Dr. Roberts

Delta State will host the Board of Trustees meeting, for the first time in six years, on April 20 and 21. Committee meetings will be held across campus, and the IHL Health Affairs Committee will meet in the Jacob Conference Center on Wednesday. The Board meeting will be held in Jacob Conference Center on Thursday morning. On Wednesday evening, a reception, tour, and dinner will be held at GRAMMY Museum Mississippi beginning at 6:00 p.m. President LaForge encouraged Cabinet Members to attend the Board meeting. He stated it is a good time for everyone to see how our Board of Trustees conducts their meeting.

Staff Performance Evaluations Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge distributed copies of the staff performance evaluation forms for Cabinet Members to review. Human Resources will distribute the forms to the campus following the Cabinet meeting. Supervisors are to conduct evaluations, including next year’s goals and expectations, by April 29. Vice Presidents and Deans will review evaluations by May 6. All signed performance evaluation forms are due to Human Resources by May 20.

Partnership with China Dr. McAdams

Delta State must expand into different cultures to create a multicultural community for our students—inside and outside the classroom—to give them experience with an ever changing global market. By recruiting international students, Delta State gives students a chance to interact with different cultures. All universities in Mississippi are recruiting the same students. By looking internationally, Delta State can help grow enrollment numbers. Personal relationships are very important in Asian cultures, and having a presence within the country helps to make a university successful in Asian countries. Delta State is working to have an office in China with a Director who will work to recruit new students. Delta State will only incur expenses as we see results. While in China, Dr. McAdams met with representatives from four different universities, and he sees a great opportunity for success in China. He believes we will see the first fruits of our labor at our summer camp for international students, and Delta State could see new students as early as Fall 2016. Dr. McAdams hopes to open exchange opportunities for faculty and students as we progress.

Other Discussion

- Ms. Read stated they are working on getting speakers for Staff Development Day.
- Ms. Read stated the H.L. Nowell Staff Award submissions are due on Friday.
- President LaForge stated they are working on finding a time for Facilities Management and their immediate families to take a tour of GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, as a “thank you” for their work with the Grand Opening.
- Faculty Senate President Dr. Fadiga-Stewart thanked President LaForge for speaking at the Honors Program, and stated that it is a wonderful program for the university.
- President LaForge said the “Sneak Peek” of Caylor-White/Walters Hall went very well, and there was a very good turnout.
- Dr. Caston stated the Hall of Fame banquet will be held the Friday before Commencement.
- Dr. Caston stated Union improvements will include the second and third floors, updating the carpet with stain-resistant carpet, and working on furniture updates that have multiple uses.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Reception/Dinner for IHL Board and guests, April 20, 6:00 p.m., GRAMMY Museum Mississippi
- IHL Board meeting at DSU, April 21, 2016
- BPAC performance, Sara Evans, April 21, 7:30 p.m.
- Retirement and Service Awards Program, April 22, 2:00 p.m., Union 2nd Floor Lobby
- Spring Commencement, May 7, 10:00 a.m., Walter Sillers Coliseum
- Wayne Blansett Staff Development Day, May 12

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, April 18, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Budget Priorities

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.