

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: August 31, 2015**

**Members in attendance:** President William LaForge, Dr. Libby Carlson, Dr. Butch Caston, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Dr. Debbie Heslep, 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 not in attendance:** None

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on August 31, 2015. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge spoke to the Greenwood Exchange Club on Tuesday. He also spoke to donors and alumni from Staplcoth and Viking Range while he was in the area.
- President LaForge visited the Gulf Coast on Thursday. He visited students from Pass Christian High School, had lunch with several alumni, visited the Stennis Space Center to discuss our Geospatial program, had several donor visits, and attended the Gulf Coast Alumni Chapter meeting at the home of Dr. Johnny Mallett.
- President LaForge held his initial First Friday Faculty Meeting last week, and he also met new student Youngliang Yu who is from California. He is a business major and had a perfect score on the SAT.
- President LaForge discussed this week's schedule. The students' Welcome Week events start today. There is a Pep Rally at Parker Field at 7:30 pm and the First Year Seminar class will be recognized. The Cabinet will host the new students for an Ice Cream Social on Wednesday at 5:30 pm on the Quad. President LaForge and seven other representatives will attend the MAPE Winter-Reed Partnership Awards honoring Dr. Clyde Muse (Delta State alumnus) on Tuesday in Jackson. On Tuesday evening, we will host our first Colloquia speaker of the year, Mr. Joe Turner. On Thursday, there will be a GRAMMY Board meeting, and we will play our first home football game of the season at 6:00 pm. We will host a reception before the game at 5:30 pm in the Dorgan Center. The Levitt AMP Music series will host The Weeks at 10:00 pm at the Delta Arts Alliance following the game.
- President LaForge announced he will participate in AASCU's Presidential Mission to Cuba, and so he will be out of the office next week.
- President LaForge asked Dr. Heslep to provide an enrollment update. She stated that we had the second purge last week and there are 73 students who haven't re-registered. Add those to the first purge and we are down a total of 186 students that were purged and have not re-registered. Last fall, our highest reported total was 3,614 students. Our highest enrollment so far this semester is 3,498.

#### **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 August 24, 2015.

**CABINET TOPIC**

None

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

**Request to Confer Degrees in the Summer .....Dr. McAdams**

Dr. McAdams discussed the issue we had this summer with three students who had jobs pending but they needed a transcript showing their degrees had been completed this summer. We are the only Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) university that doesn't confer degrees in the summer. Currently, students who complete their coursework in the summer have to wait until December to receive their degrees. Academic Council unanimously approved conferring degrees in August. This would impact approximately 80-100 students.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. McAdams to approve the conferring of degrees following summer session and seconded by Dr. Tabb. **The motion was approved.**

**Discussion**

**Report on Course Cancellation/Purge Process .....Mr. McClellan**

Mr. McClellan stated that he hasn't heard or seen very many negative comments about our new process. The committee will meet again next week to discuss any tweaks that need to be made. He feels that it was a positive process and it did what it was designed to do. They are working on pulling the demographics of the students that were purged. President LaForge thanked Mr. McClellan for all his efforts in getting this new process in place.

**90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration ..... Dr. Roberts**

Dr. Roberts distributed the tentative schedule for Delta State's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on September 15. We will gather at the Clock tower at 12:00 am for a small ceremony, followed by lunch on the quad. At 1:30 pm we will have a program in Jobe Auditorium about the history of DSU followed by campus cleanup and beautification activities at 3:00 pm. At 5:30 pm we will have a celebratory meal in Young-Mauldin cafeteria followed by a talent show at 7:30 pm sponsored by the SGA. Finally there will be a Late Night Event at Hey Joe's Restaurant.

**Campus Emergency Phones .....Dr. Caston**

Chief Lynn Buford is recommending that we remove the emergency phones that are located around campus. Most, if not all, of them are inoperable and will be very costly to replace/repair. He stated that times have changed and almost all students have cell phones with them at all times. They will use the savings on new cameras and lighting.

**Other Discussion**

- Dr. Tabb announced the Title IX team met and they recognize the extensive work that has to be done. They will talk to other universities to see the plans they have and get some suggestions from them. She also stated that most of the universities have a full time staff person for this project.
- Mr. McClellan discussed our partnership with the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi. We will be a good neighbor, especially during the opening week activities; but, after the initial activities, we will have to

charge them for the use of our facilities, set-ups, equipment, etc.

- President LaForge announced the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment search is continuing. We are continuing to receive applications.
- The Initiative 42 public hearing held at the BPAC recently was discussed. Dr. Tabb attended the meeting and she said both sides were represented and were in total disagreement. No one knows enough about the issue. Mr. McClellan stated Delta State's budget would be cut approximately \$1.8 million if the measure passes.

#### **INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Colloquia Lecture Series, Joe Turner, September 1, 6:00 pm, Jobe Auditorium
- Welcome Week Ice Cream Social, September 2, 5:30 p.m., Quadrangle
- Thank You Breakfast for Student Business Services and Financial Assistance staff, September 3, 8:00 a.m., Janice Wyatt Conference Room
- Pre-game Reception (Chamber Board, Leadership Class, Student leaders), September 3, 5:30 p.m. Dorgan Center
- DSU vs Fort Valley State football game, September 3, 6:00 p.m. (wear White)
- DSU's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, September 15
- Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy, September 15
- Pig Pickin' and DSU vs Kentucky Wesleyan College, September 19, Reception: 5:30 p.m., Kickoff: 6:00 p.m.
- Colloquia Lecture Series, Natasha Trethewey, October 22, 6:00 pm, Jobe Auditorium
- Walt Bettinger Visit/Meeting with Cabinet, October 23/24
- Alumni Gala, November 6
- Homecoming, November 7
- GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, Grand Opening, November 14

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, September 14, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Report on Grant Funding (Myrtis)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.