

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: February 15, 2016

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Libby Carlson, Dr. E.E. Caston, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Mr. Steve McClellan, Ms. Marilyn Read, and Dr. Michelle Roberts (Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Dr. Charles McAdams, and Mr. Mikel Sykes

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on February 15, 2016. The meeting convened at 8:30 a.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge informed Cabinet Members of a vehicle accident over the weekend that involved three Delta State students. One student was critically injured. Ms. Julie Jackson has reached out to the student's mother on behalf of the University. President LaForge asked for the mother's telephone number in order to call her.
- President LaForge announced Delta State students placed third place in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Social Business Challenge on February 10, and asked Dr. Roberts to expand upon the event. Dr. Roberts stated the challenge asked students from all Mississippi Public Universities to present their ideas for addressing one of Mississippi's most pressing problems. Delta State was represented by three Family and Consumer Sciences majors: Elizabeth Quinn, Emily Herrington, and Elizabeth Stitt.
- President LaForge announced that a new First Year Seminar Director has been named. Dr. Jon Westfall, Assistant Professor of Psychology, will assume this new role on March 1.
- President LaForge attended SGA's first State of the Student Union Address. He stated that Mr. Sykes and his Cabinet provided a report on the work of the Student Government Association.
- President LaForge and Dr. Roberts attended the House Appropriations Committee Hearing last week. President LaForge stated Commissioner Glenn Boyce was given about twenty minutes to pitch the needs for the IHL System. Also, President LaForge and Dr. Roberts had meetings with Representative Jeff Smith and Senator Buck Clarke to speak on issues related to Delta State's funding and bond bills.
- President LaForge gave Cabinet Members a recap of his time in L.A. for GRAMMY Week. He stated the events for Mississippi Night were very nice and our DMI AllStars were outstanding.
- President LaForge asked Mr. Mayers to give an update on Athletics. Mr. Mayers stated it was a cold weekend for DSU Athletics. The baseball games were well attended and they won one of three games. Our softball team won all three of their games. Mr. Mayers stated Athletics will have its busiest week of the semester this week. The softball team, baseball team, men's and women's basketball, and the swimming and diving team will be at home this week. The swimming and diving team will host the New South Intercollegiate Swim Conference Championships Tuesday through Saturday.
- President LaForge discussed this week's schedule. This afternoon President LaForge and Dr. Roberts will travel to Jackson for the Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing. On Tuesday, President LaForge and faculty from the Department of Teacher Education will host Superintendent Cory Uselton

of Desoto County to help build our relationships with this area. Mr. Uselton received a graduate degree from Delta State, and we hope to become a pipeline for his students in Desoto County. Brad White, State Office Director, and Jo Ann Clark from Senator Thad Cochran’s Jackson office will meet with President LaForge and Dr. Roberts on Tuesday. President LaForge will attend the IEO and IHL Board meetings in Jackson on Wednesday and Thursday. He will also have breakfast with the Alumni Association Board President, Rob Armour. President LaForge will host Mr. and Mrs. Charlie McGuffee and Mr. and Mrs. Woody Bounds for the BPAC Performance, Mamma Mia, on Thursday evening. Before the performance, a donor dinner will be held at Delta Meat Market. A Farewell Reception for Mr. McClellan will be held in the President’s Conference Room on Friday at 1:30 p.m., and the Junior Auxiliary Charity Ball will be held that evening.

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 February 8, 2016.

CABINET TOPIC

Budget Process Presentations Cabinet

Mr. Mayers, Dr. Roberts, Dr. Caston, and Mr. McClellan presented their budget requests, in priority order, for new initiatives. Dr. McAdams and Mr. Fulcher will present their budget requests at the next Cabinet meeting.

Athletics: One Time Budget requests: Delta Field - \$510,000, Aquatics Center - \$250,000, Parker Field/McCool Stadium - \$700,000, Chadwick-Dickson/Dorgan Center - \$100,000, and various equipment - \$100,000. New recurring/ongoing budget requests – \$1,484,919 (see presentation)

University Relations: New Position - Social Media Specialist/Writer position \$42,500, Advertising and marketing \$40,000, Fireside Chat equipment \$6,100, Camera equipment for photographer \$3,200, and entrance sign \$55,000 (see presentation)

Student Affairs: New hybrid position for Housing and Police Department, New Position – Deputy Chief of Police, hire a Professional Counselor, New Position – Student Life Activities Assistant, expand Statesmen Connect, and Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority Software for default prevention and aversion (see presentation)

Finance and Administration: Value Plus Reload Station (Union), additional background checks for faculty/staff, spotlights for BPAC, fire alarm service contracts, boiler maintenance (see presentation)

BUSINESS

Action

Cash Collection/Handling Policy (Final Reading) Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan presented the Cash Collection/Handling Policy for a final reading. He stated he didn’t receive any feedback from Cabinet Members. He reminded everyone the effective date for the policy will be July 1, after employees are trained.

Motion: Moved by Mr. McClellan to approve the “Cashing Collection/Handling Policy” for a final reading and seconded by Ms. Read. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

None

Other Discussion

- President LaForge received an update from Dr. Temika Simmons regarding the Vice President for Student Affairs search. The pool of applicants totaled forty-seven, and the committee has narrowed the pool to six candidates. Phone interviews begin on Tuesday and will continue on Thursday. The committee hopes to bring three finalists to campus.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Mama Mia, February 18, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, Grand Opening, March 5
- Go Green Weekend, April 1-3
- Beatles 2016: From Cavern to the Candlestick Symposium, April 1-2, GRAMMY Museum Mississippi
- IHL Board meeting at DSU, April 21, 2016

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, February 22, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Budget Process Presentations (Charles and Keith)
Visioning Process Presentation - Steve

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:29 am.