

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: January 13, 2016**

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

**Members not in attendance:** Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart

**Guest:** Dr. Debbie Heslep

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on January 13, 2016. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge announced Delta State received a letter from SACS notifying us that no additional reports are needed in regards to our campus safety initiatives put into place after the September tragedy. President LaForge extended his thanks to Dr. Beverly Moon and all who assisted with the report.
- President LaForge informed Cabinet Members of the Art Department's Annual Juried Student Exhibition occurring March 17. He asked Cabinet Members to give to the Cabinet prize, if inclined. All money will be collected by Ms. Cole.
- President LaForge is preparing a Campus Update to send to the DSU Family. Recommended topics include: visioning process, Vice President for Finance announcement and search, Vice President for Student Affairs search update, Grammy Museum Mississippi opening, Union renovations, status of Statesman Boulevard, and an update on the paving project. President LaForge thanked Cabinet Members for their contributions to the update.
- President LaForge will attend the 2016 NCAA Convention in San Antonio from Wednesday evening through Saturday. Mr. Mayers and a few others from the Athletic Department will also represent Delta State at the convention.
- President and Mrs. LaForge will attend the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Crystal Ball Gala on Saturday, January 16. Ms. Lucy Janoush will be honored during this event.
- President LaForge asked Mr. Mayers to give an update on Athletics. Mr. Mayers informed Cabinet Members that our men's soccer coach has accepted a position at another school, and a nationwide search for a new coach is underway. Swimming and Diving will host Henderson State University and University of West Florida on Friday for senior day. The men's and women's basketball teams are hosting Mississippi College on Saturday at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Mr. Mayers also stated a possible bid will be put in for the basketball regionals to be hosted at Delta State.
- President LaForge discussed next week's schedule due to Cabinet not meeting again until January 25. Martin Luther King Holiday is Monday. President and Mrs. LaForge will attend a MLK breakfast at Lampton Street Church of Christ in Mound Bayou. The guest speaker for the event is Ron Claiborne, weekend news anchor for ABC's Good Morning America. A MLK parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. in

Cleveland at City Hall. President LaForge will visit Southaven High School and Desoto Central High School on Tuesday for recruiting visits. IEO and IHL Board meetings will be held in Jackson on Wednesday and Thursday, and a Hearin Foundation proposals meeting will be held on Friday.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Ms. Read, seconded by Dr. McAdams, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on January 8, 2016.

**CABINET TOPIC**

**Tuition Hike Discussion..... President LaForge**

President LaForge began the discussion about tuition hikes by informing Cabinet Members of Commissioner Glenn Boyce’s request for assistance from all universities on how to reframe our message to legislators concerning tuition increases. President LaForge posed the question to Cabinet Members, “how would we, Delta State, explain why we increased tuition?” Mr. McClellan offered the suggestion of speaking on enrollment growth. The growth of enrollment is not at the same level as it once was; thereby, causing universities to seek other avenues for funding. The enrollment growth at regional universities is flat compared to larger, flagship schools. With enrollment not growing exponentially, tuition rates must increase to keep schools operational. A big burden on university budgets is funding students who are under-prepared for college curriculum. Dr. McAdams suggested using the debate of education being a private vs. public good. The state has competing priorities for funding and has scarce resources to provide to these priorities; thereby, limiting funding for higher education. President LaForge asked Cabinet Members to send any other ideas to Dr. Roberts so she can formulate Delta State’s response to the Commissioner.

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

None

**Discussion**

**Enrollment Update.....Dr. McAdams**

Dr. McAdams invited Dr. Debbie Heslep to Cabinet to give an update on recent enrollment figures. Dr. Heslep informed Cabinet Members that enrollment numbers are down by 1.15% or 36 students from Spring 2015. This number reflects a loss of 15 undergraduate students and 21 graduate students. New student enrollment is 165 — two first time freshmen, 152 first time transfer students, and eleven international students. Dr. Heslep is optimistic, based on past years’ data, that approximately 180 students will register before the end of registration. Dr. Heslep stated that 42 new students never came back after the purge process in Fall 2015. She said she has not tracked this information in the past, and so she wasn’t sure if this was normal behavior or not.

**Budget Process..... Mr. McClellan**

Mr. McClellan believes the budget timeline process presented at the October 20<sup>th</sup> Cabinet meeting is a good process. He has spoken to most of the President’s direct reports, and feels that each will be able to present to him in February the new and expanded activities for their areas. Even though decisions will not be able to be made due to not knowing final appropriations, we can go ahead and determine

our priorities. Cabinet members agreed to move the deadline for Phase II from March 10 to February 15. All direct reports of the President will present to Cabinet their top priorities for new and expanded activities on February 15 except for Academic Affairs who will present their priorities on February 22. Mr. McClellan will take all of the items and combine them into a prioritized list that he will present to the Cabinet on February 29. Each Cabinet meeting until February 29 will include time to discuss budget issues, which will be prepared in Mr. McClellan's absence.

#### **Other Discussion**

- Dr. Carlson updated Cabinet Members on an accreditation issue facing the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing. They are not in compliance with IHL bylaws with regards to a background check completed for a full time faculty member. Several requirements have been put in place to allow for the School of Nursing to be back at their original standing. This will be reviewed at the May 2016 IHL Board meeting.
- Dr. Caston stated that the Title IX Policy update should be ready for Cabinet's approval by January 25.
- President LaForge informed Cabinet Members that all search committee members for the Vice President for Finance and Administration have been asked to serve. Dr. McAdams will proceed with the search process.
- Dr. Roberts asked Cabinet Members to submit to her any ideas they have regarding merchandise to put into the 450 goody bags for Grammy VIPs for opening week. Some ideas are: guitar picks, recording label collaterals, and Delta State wristbands.

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

- Martin Luther King holiday, January 18
- Annie, February 2, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Mama Mia, February 18, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, Grand Opening, March 5
- 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 – Wednesday, January 25, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Visioning Process Presentation (Dr. Caston)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm.