

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: March 28, 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, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jamie Rutledge, and Mr. Mikel Sykes
(Ms. Claire Cole – recorder)

Members not in attendance: Ms. Marilyn Read

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on March 28, 2016. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. McAdams, seconded by Dr. Caston, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on March 21, 2016.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge welcomed the men's and women's swimming and diving team members that participated in the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships. President LaForge expressed his appreciation for the wonderful way the teams represented Delta State. Mr. Mayers introduced Dan'l Murray, head coach for the swimming and diving teams, and asked him to give a report from the Championship meet. Coach Murray stated the men's team finished in fifth place and rose six places from last year. The women's team finished in tenth place. Coach Murray stated several members of the swimming and diving teams are training for the Olympics, and will travel home in the coming weeks to compete.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members a note he received from Emily Havens, Executive Director of GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi. She thanked Delta State for the support for the Grand Opening of the Museum and our continued support.
- President LaForge updated Cabinet Members on the Vice President for Student Affairs search. He stated the committee selected three finalists to bring to campus. President LaForge will begin making phone calls this week to different members of the search committee and the campus community to get a better feel of their views of the candidates. He hopes to have a decision made within two to three weeks. Once a decision has been made, it will be brought to Cabinet before it is released to the public.
- President LaForge asked Dr. McAdams to give an update on the Vice President for Finance and Administration search. Dr. McAdams stated on-campus interviews were held last week. The search committee will meet this week to compile information for their report to President LaForge.
- President LaForge stated the Colloquia went well, and Senator Roger Wicker was well received. He felt the attendance could have been better, but this is a problem across campus.

- President LaForge met with potential donors Hugh Arant and Peter Woods last week. Mr. Woods has listed Delta State in his trust, with the money designated for scholarships.
- President LaForge had a good visit with the Pan-Hellenic Council recently. He is working to promote an inclusive Greek system. President LaForge wants students to know that anyone can be members of the Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, and the Pan-Hellenic Council.
- President LaForge asked Mr. Mayers to give an update on Athletics. Mr. Mayers stated our baseball team won all three games against the University of North Alabama. The softball team lost all three games to the University of North Alabama. The golf team plays today, and the baseball and softball teams will play later in the week.
- President LaForge discussed this week’s schedule. The third annual Winning the Race Conference will be held on Monday and Tuesday. President LaForge attended the first plenary session with speaker Tim Wise. He stated Mr. Wise was a great speaker to begin the conference. A Mayoral Luncheon was held at noon today for local mayors to discuss ways to help racial healing and to prepare for the roundtable discussion at the opening session. The opening reception and session is tonight beginning at 5:00 p.m., and the closing session is Tuesday at 3:15 p.m. President LaForge will visit two schools in Desoto County on Wednesday, Lake Cormorant High School and Center Hill High School. The 11th Annual International Business Symposium, sponsored by David and Sherry Abney, is Wednesday and Thursday. President LaForge will host a breakfast for the speakers on Thursday morning. Go Green Weekend begins on Thursday and will last through Sunday. Dr. McAdams asked Cabinet Members to help welcome prospective students and their families at the Dorgan Center on Saturday. The Beatles Symposium will be held at the DMI on Friday and at GRAMMY Museum Mississippi on Saturday. Dr. Roberts distributed agendas for the Beatles Symposium and Go Green Weekend.
- Dr. McAdams leaves on Friday to go to China to continue building our relationships with international universities. He will work to make connections with students and faculty plus recruit for a camp, created by Dr. Christy Riddle, which gives prospective international students an opportunity to visit Delta State before applying.
- President LaForge asked Mr. Sykes to give an update on SGA elections. Mr. Sykes stated a runoff election will occur on Wednesday and Thursday for Attorney General and Treasurer. The elected officers are: Allie Rose Parker, President; Meredith Brown, Vice President; and Dana Rico, Secretary. The office of Chief Justice will be an appointed position because no one ran for this position.

CABINET TOPIC

Budget Priorities/Timeline..... Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge brought to Cabinet three funding scenarios the University could face in the coming months. The first scenario is the FY2016 base budget, less mid-year cuts, resulting in \$415,000 for new and expanded activities. The second scenario is the FY2016 base budget, resulting in \$850,000 for new and expanded activities. The third scenario is the FY2016 base budget plus the proposed Senate bill increase of 1.1%. This scenario would result in \$1,150,000 for new and expanded activities. Mr. Rutledge compiled a list of priorities based off each of President LaForge’s direct reports’ budget process presentations. He has given this list to the Executive Committee to review. Mr. Rutledge stated we should know about our State appropriations by April 18.

BUSINESS

Action

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. The policy specifies Delta State will provide access to University owned technology resources for the purposes of learning, service, and research if used consistently with the University mission. Due to a question regarding student access and communication, the Access to University Information Technology Resources policy was tabled until the next Cabinet Meeting.

Retiree Benefits policy - revised (Final Reading) Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge brought to Cabinet the Retiree Benefits policy for a final reading. An addition to the benefits portion of the policy was made to allow retirees to receive an email address that will provide limited access to the University email system. The email address will read: username@retiree.deltastate.edu.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the addition of a limited access email address for retirees to the Retiree Benefits policy and seconded by Dr. McAdams. **The motion was approved.**

Weapons on Campus Policy - revised (First Reading)Dr. Caston

Dr. Caston stated this policy is the work of the Executive Committee, the Board of Trustees, and University Presidents. The Board of Trustees asked each institution to determine which areas of their campus are deemed public and which areas are deemed private. The Executive Committee put together a proposed list for Cabinet’s consideration.

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

Discussion

None

Other Discussion

- President LaForge stated Cabinet would not meet on April 4 due to several Cabinet Members being out of town. Cabinet meetings will resume on April 11 at 1:30 p.m.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Winning the Race Conference, March 28-29
- International Business Symposium, March 30-31
- Beatles 2016: From Cavern to the Candlestick Symposium, April 1-2, GRAMMY Museum Mississippi
- Go Green Weekend, April 1-3
- IHL Board meeting at DSU, April 21, 2016

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, April 11, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Budget Priorities

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:47 pm.