

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: September 16, 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, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Dr. Myrtis Tabb and Ms. Leigh Emerson

Members not in attendance: Mr. Steve McClellan and Mr. Mikel Sykes

Guests: Ms. Nancy LaForge, Ms. Caroline Solano, and Dr. Clifton Wingard

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on September 16, 2015 (rescheduled from September 14, 2015). The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge announced the funeral arrangements for Dr. Ethan Schmidt. A private memorial service was held in Cleveland this morning at 10:00 a.m. The funeral service will be held on Saturday at 3:00 pm in Peabody, KS, and the family will receive friends from 1:00 - 2:30 pm.
- President LaForge announced we will debrief our emergency response to the crisis at Monday's Cabinet meeting. The law enforcement officials will also meet to recap and make adjustments.
- President LaForge thanked everyone for their help with the candlelight vigil. He felt it was very well attended and was what we needed. The message to the campus is everyone should take time to heal and continue to move forward. He and Dr. McAdams visited with students and faculty on Wednesday morning as everyone was coming back for classes.
- IHL Commissioner Glenn Boyce came to campus on Tuesday. While he was on campus, he visited with Dr. Schmidt's family, thanked the police force, and talked to students.
- President LaForge asked everyone to send to Leigh the names of those we need to thank for their assistance with this week's events.
- President LaForge discussed this week's schedule. The Chick-Fil-A Academy event was cancelled for the students; however, they decided to stay and pack the meals. We had over 150 volunteers make and deliver 2,700 hot meals to local schools, law enforcement, etc. They also packed 101,952 meals that will be sent to six food pantries locally and some in the Jackson area. The 90th Anniversary and the Preview for Parents events were cancelled and will be rescheduled. The Levitt AMP Music series will be held tonight and a student from the Delta Music Institute will perform at 6:30 pm. President LaForge and Mayor Billy Nowell will provide brief remarks at 7:20 p.m. and will share their thanks to the community. On Thursday, the BPAC performance of The Time Jumpers will be held at 7:30 pm. The 25th Annual Rice Luncheon will be held on Friday in Walter Sillers Coliseum. On Friday and Saturday we will host the annual Pig Pickin' events. DSU Day will be held on Saturday beginning at 11:30 am, and the reception before the football game starts at 5:30 pm in the Dorgan Center.
- Dr. McAdams announced that Dr. Michaela Merryday from the Art Department has been nominated for the Mississippi Humanities Council award.

- Dr. Roberts announced that Ms. Claire Cole is working with OIT staff to put together a printed version of the telephone directory. We haven't had a printed copy in several years. Ms. Cole will email a draft copy of the directory to Cabinet members for them to verify the information. It will be printed by the Campus Copy Center and will also be available online.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Tabb, seconded by Dr. Roberts, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on August 31, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

AASCU Presidential Mission to Cuba.....President LaForge
 President LaForge invited his wife, Ms. Nancy LaForge; daughter, Ms. Caroline Solano; and, Chair of the Math Department, Dr. Clifton Wingard, who visited Cuba last year, to hear the presentation. President LaForge gave highlights from his trip with the America Association of Schools Colleges and Universities (AASCU) to Cuba. Eighteen presidents from across the U.S. attended. The purpose of the trip was to meet their counterparts (Rectors) and establish partnerships with them. He presented a slide show of some of the pictures he took while there. They discussed what the future holds for exchanges with faculty and students especially in the areas of Art, Music/DMI, GIT and Nursing. We really can't do much until the embargo is lifted, but it was a great way to begin discussions. It also opened the door for other potential recruiting trips with AASCU.

BUSINESS

Action

None

Business

Dining Hall plans.....Mr. McClellan
 This discussion was tabled since Mr. McClellan was not in attendance.

Enrollment ActivitiesDr. Heslep

Dr. Heslep stated our enrollment for Fall 2015 is up .5% when compared to the post-purge numbers from Fall 2014. They had to cancel Parents' Night plans due to the events on Monday; however, they had sent out 238 invitations, advertised in the Bolivar Bullet, Facebook, etc. They will reschedule this event within the next month. We have had low participation in the past by the Cleveland area schools because they think they know everything about DSU. However, enrollment from the three Cleveland schools for this year is the highest it has been in six years.

They are proceeding with DSU Day on Saturday. They mailed 4,100 invitations, emailed 3,900 students, and also advertised on Facebook, etc. They will present a slide show during the academic fair, the recruiters will wear the same shirts, and they will give out tickets for Pig Pickin and the football game. All students will receive a t-shirt and will also receive a 15% discount in the bookstore. We have 120 students registered so far.

The CRM system has been loaded with most of the contact information from camps this summer. They

are still working on getting lists from some of the athletic groups. They are reviewing letters, and working on welcome letters that will be sent from each academic dean. They meet weekly with OIT and consultants to continue trying to fix the problems they have experienced. They are also working on mapping out the next steps.

Dr. Heslep announced that they are finally fully staffed. She has hired Mr. Derrick Bean, Mr. DSU from last year, for the Northeast Mississippi area and Ms. Sara Shepard, who is transferring from the Alumni office, for the six counties in Southeast Mississippi. She distributed copies of their College Fair schedule and invited everyone to attend.

90th Anniversary participation Dr. Roberts

The 90th Anniversary Celebration, scheduled for September 15, has been postponed. The planning committee is considering rescheduling the celebration for the week of Homecoming.

RV Park Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts discussed a request from Mr. Charlie McGuffee (Alumnus) to park his RV at the RV Park at Statesman Park during Pig Pickin', and he was told we don't have a place for RV's. Dr. Roberts looked back at the last Cabinet discussions, and Mr. McClellan had recommended that we not have a RV park on campus or provide hookups anymore. There were issues regarding people using the park for long-term purposes as well as issues dealing with managing the reservation/payment process. Mr. Mayers will discuss this issue with Mr. McClellan, and they will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee.

MAC Conference Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts stated the annual Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities conference will be held on October 4-5 at Millsaps College. That is the same time as our Blues Conference. She asked if anyone was planning on attending. Ms. Marilyn Read and Dr. Debbie Heslep said they would go and represent DSU.

Other Discussion

- Mr. Mayers announced that Coach Todd Cooley moved football practice to 9:00 pm on Tuesday so the players and coaches could attend the candlelight vigil on Monday. He also stated we have soccer games today, swim meets on Friday, and the football game on Saturday evening. The softball team will play an exhibition game against Mississippi State University on Sunday.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Pig Pickin' and DSU vs Kentucky Wesleyan College, September 19, Reception: 5:30 p.m., Kickoff: 6:00 p.m.
- DSU vs Albany State University, September 26, 2:00 p.m. (wear white)
- Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, September 28, 5:30 pm social, 6:30 p.m. dinner and program, Cleveland Country Club
- Ribbon cutting for Tim and Nancy Harvey Baseball Stadium, Ferriss Legend Award, and Statue Unveiling, October 3, 2:00 pm, Ferriss Field
- Retirement Celebration for Dr. Myrtis Tabb, October 16, 2:00 pm, BPAC
- Naming Ceremony of New Men's Residence Hall to Blansett Hall, October 17, 3:30 pm, Blansett Hall
- 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

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, September 14, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Debrief on our Emergency Response System (Cabinet)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.