

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: September 28, 2015

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Libby Carlson, Dr. Butch Caston, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Dr. Debbie Heslep, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Mr. Steve McClellan, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Mikel Sykes
(Ms. Leigh Emerson – recorder)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart, Dr. Charles McAdams, and Dr. Myrtis Tabb

Guest: Ms. Robin Boyles, Director of Institutional Grants

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on September 28, 2015. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge and Dr. Roberts attended the IHL Hearing before the Joint Legislative Budget Committee last week.
- President LaForge recently met with Ms. Meredith Creekmere, a representative of C-Spire Foundation, to discuss their support for Delta State, and also met with Dr. Garry Jennings and Dr. Temika Simmons to discuss plans for the 2016 Race Conference.
- President LaForge announced the emergency operational plan is being revised. Dr. Caston told Cabinet Members the plan should be in place this week.
- President LaForge was in Greenwood last week and met with Mr. Jay Watts, Headmaster of Pillow Academy, and he also spoke to the Greenwood Kiwanis Club.
- President LaForge and Dr. McAdams had a meeting with Dr. Valmadge Towner and his associates from Coahoma Community College and representatives from Mississippi State University to discuss the Early College Model.
- President LaForge met with Dr. Caston, Dr. Roberts, Jeanna Wilkes, and Michael Lipford to discuss the Greek System. During the meeting, an overall review of the Greek System was given, governance of each chapter was discussed, and a report on recruitment efforts was provided.
- Mr. Mayers discussed the great weekend of sports at Delta State. The Cleveland High School and East Side High School football game was held at Parker Field – McCool Stadium on Friday. The Statesmen Football won 40-0 on Saturday, and the double header in soccer was well attended.
- President LaForge announced two tickets are still available for the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet tonight.
- Dr. Heslep stated 15 people will represent Delta State at the Agricenter Fair in Memphis tonight. Nine academic departments will be represented. Also, she announced applications are up from this time last year.
- President LaForge discussed this week's schedule. He and Mr. McClellan met with Aramark representatives — Brad Cosson and Kasey Schluterman — this morning to discuss Aramark's annual plan. On Tuesday, he will travel to Indianola to speak to their Rotary Club. We will host visitors (four students and one professor) from John Paul II Catholic University in Poland from Wednesday until

October 8. On Friday, President LaForge will host his First Friday Faculty meetings. On Saturday, we have a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Tim Harvey Baseball Stadium and presentation of the Legend Award to Coach Boo Ferriss at 2:00 pm. Also, we will host Florida Institute of Technology at 6:00 pm for the football game and reception.

- President LaForge announced Ms. Claire Cole will be the new Coordinator of Executive Services and the Administrative Secretary position is being advertised. President LaForge thanked Ms. Emerson for her many years of service in the President’s Office.
- President LaForge stated full page ads have been printed in all newspapers to thank everyone for their support with the September 14 campus tragedy.
- President LaForge would like for there to be a permanent plaque placed in honor of our Legend Award winners and one for our Colloquia Series speakers in order for guests and DSU family to view who has received the Legend Award or has been a speaker of our Distinguished Lecture series.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. McClellan, seconded by Mr. Mayers, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on September 21, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

Report on Grant Funding Ms. Boyles

Ms. Boyles reported that a 63% increase in grant money was received from this fiscal year to last fiscal year. She gave a breakdown of where our grant money comes from: 68% from federal agencies, 29% from foundations (an increase of \$500,000), and 3% from state agencies. Delta State received a total of 55 awards during the 2014-15 fiscal year totaling \$6,820,389.

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

BPAC Marquee..... Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan stated a marquee for the Bologna Performing Arts Center is in the works. The marquee is 8’ tall and 9’ wide and will cost \$50,000. The money for the marquee will be paid for through private donations. The marquee will be used to advertise the season’s line-up. Dr. Roberts asked Mr. McClellan to have Ms. Laura Howell work with the Communications and Marketing office to ensure that the design is in line with the university’s brand.

Status of Campus Projects Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan gave an update on our campus projects. Caylor-White Hall will complete the two large classrooms with money taken from the Young-Mauldin project, and the renovation will be finished in the Spring. Zeigel Hall’s pre-plan phase is moving slowly and money is not in place for this project. Mr. McClellan is hopeful we will receive additional funding in the next bond bill. The paving project is in progress. Paving on Washington Street will begin next week. Mr. McClellan would like to get the word out on social media and the Student Government Association site. This project will be complete before the Winter break. Mr. McClellan received an update on Walter-Sillers Coliseum last week. An engineer

proposed several repairs costing between \$250,000 and \$300,000. Statesmen Boulevard project will begin in January 2016.

Other Discussion

- Homecoming elections are delayed due to a Student Court case involving a candidate distributing food, which is not allowed. The new dates for Homecoming elections are October 7th and 8th.
- The Student Government Association has agreed to fund bullet proof vests for Campus Police.
- A discussion was held on ways to provide financial assistance to the campus Police Department. Mr. Fulcher stated the Foundation will open an account to benefit the needs of the Police Department once money has been received.
- Dr. Caston reported that all students living in residence halls returned after the September 14 campus tragedy.
- The Lady Statesmen Cross Country team is hosting a meet on Saturday, October 3 as a fundraiser for the team.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, September 28, 5:30 pm social, 6:30 p.m. dinner and program, Cleveland Country Club
- Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy (rescheduled), October 1
- Cabinet lunch with Poland group, October 1, 12:00 noon, President's Conference Room
- International Conference on the Blues, Pre-conference event (Roger Stolle, owner of Cat Head in Clarksdale), October 1, 5:30 pm, Cutrer Mansion
- Ribbon cutting for Tim and Nancy Harvey Baseball Stadium, Ferriss Legend Award, and Statue Unveiling, October 3, 2:00 pm, Ferriss Field
- DSU vs Florida Institute of Technology, October 3, 6:00 p.m. (wear pink), Reception at 5:30 pm
- International Conference on the Blues, October 5-6, DMI
- Cabinet Retirement Dinner for Myrtis Tabb, October 7, 6:00 pm, TBD
- Retirement Celebration for Myrtis Tabb, October 16, 2:00 pm, BPAC
- Naming Ceremony for 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
- DSU's 90th Birthday Celebration (rescheduled), November 3
- Alumni Gala, BPAC, November 6th
- Homecoming, November 7th
- GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, Grand Opening, March 5

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, October 12, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Financial Report (Steve)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.