

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT'S CABINET
Minutes

Meeting date: January 12, 2015

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Wayne Blansett, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Dr. David Hebert, Dr. Debbie Heslep, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Charles McAdams, Mr. Steve McClellan, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Mr. Jeff Slagell, Mr. Mikel Sykes, Dr. Myrtis Tabb, and Ms. Leigh Emerson.

Members absent: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on January 12, 2015. The meeting convened at 2:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge welcomed Cabinet Members to the first meeting of 2015.
- President LaForge discussed the results of the 2014 football season and stated that Colorado State Pueblo won the National Championship. He also announced that our football team had 50 members with a GPA of 3.0 or better and the overall team average was 2.71.
- President LaForge participated in Jackson Academy's faculty/staff professional development day on Monday. He was one of three presidents who spoke to the group.
- President LaForge visited Copiah-Lincoln Community College on Friday and spoke to 104 of their Phi Theta Kappa students.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Mayers, seconded by Dr. McAdams, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on December 15, 2014.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Capital Improvement Fee..... Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan made the recommendation that we charge \$50 per student per semester, beginning in Fall 2015, for capital improvements. It will generate approximately \$291,000 annually and will be designated for capital improvements. It will have to be approved by the IHL Board. A few other universities already charge a fee for this.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Blansett to approve the fee and seconded by Dr. Tabb. **The motion was approved.**

Parking Charges for Grammy Contractors Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan stated the contractors for the Grammy Museum have asked to use our parking spaces on the northeast corner of Kent Wyatt Hall parking lot. They will be charged \$40 per space (same amount as Delta State employees), and they will have to maintain its cleanliness. There were no objections from Cabinet Members.

Okra Works Update Dr. Blansett

Dr. Blansett stated they went into the fall semester with a lot of enthusiasm for the program; however, it was more work than expected. Most businesses want internship programs. They have applications out for the Spring semester. Davlon Miller, Director of Career Services, is working with seven to eight employers now.

*President LaForge asked for the names of the students enrolled in the Okra Works program as well as the businesses that are participating in the Okra Works program. He stated that consideration should be given for whether someone, who has more time to focus on the project, needs to be put in charge of the program.

Retirement and Service Award Program Dr. Tabb

Dr. Tabb stated that the program will be held on April 24 at 2:00 pm on the second floor of the Union. She asked Cabinet Members to submit to her office by February 28 the names of employees who plan to retire this year.

Enrollment Update and Spring Recruiting Plans Dr. Heslep

Dr. Heslep stated that it will be a busy spring for recruiting. We will have eight “Be a DSU Student for a Day” events. They will also assist with hosting the high school Honor Choir, Honor Band, and “Health Occupation Student Association” (HOSA) nursing events. They have also scheduled three large high school visits to campus so far. “Go Green Weekend,” which is a big recruiting event, is scheduled for March 28.

For transfer students, they have scheduled 16 events so far, and they will have six days where our staff will go to different community colleges to sign up students.

We will have a “DSU Day in Memphis” on February 3 from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. All Cabinet Members are asked to be there. They are hoping for 200 students with a “college fair” type atmosphere with breakout sessions. Memphis Alumni helped with selecting the location and will be involved with the event. They will advertise the event with a wrap-ad in the *Commercial Appeal*, along with social media and mailed invitations. Posters will be printed and put in the schools in the area.

Enrollment for the Spring semester, as of Friday, is down 70 students from the same time last year. We usually register 200-250 students this week. We registered 133 students today so our numbers should be up. Our final Spring 2014 enrollment was 3,370, and, as of this morning, our enrollment is 3,045. We should be able to get some retention numbers later this week, as well. We have enrolled 135 dual-enrollment students so far, which is 34 less than last spring. This decrease is due primarily to two private schools not participating. We have enrolled 14 students as part of the U.S. Marine Corps program.

Discussion

- President LaForge asked Dr. Tabb to give a Race Conference update at the next meeting.

- Mr. McClellan stated that Orientation fees were not assessed correctly last summer. An email was sent to those students to let them know the fee will show up on their accounts this Spring. This will produce approximately \$30,000 in revenue.
- Mr. McClellan stated that we will begin having electronic reimbursement checks that will be direct deposited. He is also working on an electronic payment system for purchasing parking decals.
- Dr. Blansett stated that we will have a campus wide weather drill on January 22.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- BPAC performance “Anything Goes”, January 27, 7:30 p.m.
- Delta State Recruiting Day in Memphis, February 3
- Race Conference, March 30-31

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Student Programming (Dr. Blansett and Mr. Sykes)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.