

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT'S CABINET
Minutes

Meeting date: January 27, 2015

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

Members absent: Mr. Keith Fulcher and Ms. Marilyn Read

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on January 27, 2015. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge announced that our Robert E. Smith School of Nursing (RESSON) was ranked number one in the country for providing online RN (Registered Nurse) to BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) education.
- President LaForge met with Matt Holleman with the Hearin Foundation to discuss ideas for proposals we will submit in the next several weeks. We are working on proposals for Geospatial Information Technology, Delta Music Institute, scholarship money, and Teach For America internship opportunities.
- President LaForge attended the IHL Board's monthly meeting last week. They are still proposing that the legislature fund a salary increase of five percent for all university personnel.
- President LaForge distributed an article from the *Student Press Law Center* regarding our Journalism program cuts.
- President LaForge had a good visit with Phi Theta Kappa students and the Indian Delegates at Itawamba Community College on Monday.
- President LaForge reminded everyone of the campus wide tornado drill that is scheduled for Wednesday at 11:30 am. Chief Lynn Buford has been visiting each building and informing every one of the safety areas on campus.
- Dr. Tabb announced we have sold about 650 tickets for the performance of Anything Goes. They had an accident during the set up that caused some damage to the BPAC.
- Dr. Heslep asked for Cabinet Members to let her know if anyone would need a ride to Memphis for the recruiting event on Tuesday. They will take several vans. Dr. Heslep and the recruiters have delivered invitations and posters to the schools and met with several counselors to inform every one of the event.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members a very nice letter he received from the parents of football player Adrian Julius Dinkins thanking DSU, Coach Cooley, and the football players who made the passing of their son so much easier with our numerous acts of kindness.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Heslep, seconded by Dr. Roberts, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on January 27, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

President LaForge said Keith was scheduled to discuss the Foundation’s support for the University; however, he is out of town. We will postpone his presentation to a future meeting.

BUSINESS

Witness Present during Terminations Dr. Tabb

Dr. Tabb stated she participated in a deposition last week that basically was a “he said/she said,” and this reinforces the need for Delta State to implement the practice of having a witness present during any serious employee conferences/terminations. She asked if there was any opposition to this, and there was none. She will send an email to campus informing everyone of this new practice.

Conference Request from Jackson State UniversityDr. Heslep

The Director of Jackson State University’s Welcome Center will host a workshop on how to start a campus Welcome Center. The workshop is scheduled for February 26th from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and they invited us to attend. We have discussed having a Welcome Center at Delta State to enhance the visitor’s experience, and so she thought this would be a good workshop. The registration deadline is Friday, and she said to let her know if anyone would like to attend.

Cost of Attendance FiguresDr. Heslep

Dr. Heslep displayed a spreadsheet detailing the Cost of Attendance figures that different departments on campus publicize. The recruiters promote \$13,956.67 for tuition, room/board, and books. The amounts from the various departments vary because of different fees. Dr. Heslep also shared with Cabinet Members the fact that they receive questions from a lot of students and parents regarding additional fees associated with the various majors. Cabinet Members discussed the need to list on our website our Course and Optional fees.

- * Debbie will email the Cost of Attendance spreadsheet to Cabinet Members.
- * Steve will put together a spreadsheet that list all fees, and will add a pdf version of the spreadsheet to the Student Business Services webpage.

Discussion

- Dr. Tabb stated she talked to Edwin Craft, Chief Information Officer, about a cell phone application for campus emergencies. He will come to the next Cabinet meeting to discuss some options.
- Dr. Roberts reported that Caitlyn Thompson, Coordinator Communications and Marketing, met with a group to discuss the mass emails policy. They will have two policies to bring back to Cabinet for approval.
- Mr. Sykes discussed the proposed guidelines for student usage of academic buildings after hours:
 - Usage limited to 11:00 pm or before
 - Must leave the rooms the way they found them
 - If a complaint is received more than two times on a group or individual, they can no longer use the facilities
 - Certain buildings will be off-limit

* Dr. Blansett will take these proposed guidelines, in writing, to the Executive Committee.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- BPAC performance “Anything Goes”, January 27, 7:30 p.m.
- Delta State Recruiting Day in Memphis, February 3, 4:30-6:30
- Race Conference, March 30-31
- Retirement and Service Award Program, April 24, 2:00 pm, Union 2nd Floor Lobby

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, February 2, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Delta State Day in Memphis (Dr. Heslep and Ms. Caitlyn Thompson)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.