

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: June 22, 2015**

**Members in attendance:** President William LaForge, Dr. Wayne Blansett, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Mr. Steve McClellan, Ms. Marilyn Read, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Dr. Myrtis Tabb, and Ms. Leigh Emerson

**Members not in attendance:** Dr. Debbie Heslep, Dr. Charles McAdams, Mr. Jeff Slagell, Dr. Leslie Fadiga-Stewart and Mr. Mikel Sykes

**Guests** Dr. Eyad Youssef, President-Elect, Faculty Senate

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on June 22, 2015. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- President LaForge spoke about the Institutional Executive Officers (IEO) meeting and the Institutions of Higher Learning Board (IHL) meeting. He stated the IEO meeting was the best he has been to since he became president. It was a very open and collaborative meeting. They discussed budgets, possible tuition increases, and a joint legislative approach for a three percent salary increase for all of the universities. At the IHL Board meeting, a four-year bond cycle for \$100 million was discussed, as well as the approval of naming the DSU baseball stadium the Tim and Nancy Harvey Stadium.
- President LaForge asked Dr. Blansett to give an update on our Orientation sessions. He stated we had approximately 98 students registered for our Transfer Orientation session, and we had 110 students plus their parents in attendance at the first Freshman Orientation Session. He stated the orientation leaders have done a good job so far. We will have the second Freshman session on Tuesday, and there are approximately 100 students signed up so far.
- President LaForge stated he had a good meeting with Mr. Charlie McGuffee, President of the Delta Regional Foundation, last week. He supports DSU in a lot of ways. He will make a donation to the Annual Fund to further support our needs, and he also agreed to sponsor our annual Convocation Luncheon for Faculty/Staff.
- President LaForge announced the Executive Committee met with Grammy officials on Friday to discuss the DSU-Grammy partnership, as well as their Beatles symposium proposal.
- President LaForge will attend the Gulf South Conference meeting in Destin, FL this week, and so he will be out of the office from Wednesday through Friday.
- President LaForge announced Dr. E.E. "Butch" Caston will begin work as the Interim Vice President for Student Affairs on Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. He has agreed to serve for at least six months, and up to a year, if he is needed.
- President LaForge spoke to Dr. Heslep about her recovery and got an update on the Admissions office. She stated that she is feeling better and hopes to return to work next week. The staff has the office covered during her absence. They discussed the two recently hired recruiter positions and the two additional vacancies that will soon occur. He asked her to add summer school enrollment as a priority once she returns. The overall prediction for Fall enrollment is a slight increase. We will likely have a

decline in freshman enrollment, but should have an increase in transfer students and freshman retention rates.

- President LaForge stated we will preview some of the Cabinet Advance topics at a couple of our Cabinet meetings in July. This will give us time to review them and be prepared for a deeper discussion during our time at the Cabinet Advance. He also asked Cabinet Members to submit ahead of time anything they would like to introduce at the Cabinet Advance.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Mr. Mayers, seconded by Dr. Blansett, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on June 15, 2015.

### **CABINET TOPIC**

None

### **BUSINESS**

#### **Action**

#### **Mass E-mail for Communications policy (final reading) ..... Dr. Roberts**

Dr. Roberts presented the current policy with changes highlighted. The primary changes include disallowing the use of the listservs for distributing information on events, announcements, invitations, etc. as well as reducing the number of people who can send emails to the listserv. Mr. McClellan asked to be added to the Acadinfo listserv.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Roberts to approve the “Mass E-mail for Communications” policy for final reading and seconded by Mr. Mayers. **The motion was approved.**

#### **Campus Announcements Communication policy (final reading) ..... Dr. Roberts**

Dr. Roberts presented a new policy to handle the items removed from the Mass E-Mail policy related to distributing information on events, announcements, invitations, etc. We will have an area on the home page of the website for these “announcements”, and the campus community can sign up to receive the information via email. It was suggested we wait until August to send out this policy change since faculty are out and lots of staff are gone on vacation.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Roberts to approve the “Campus Announcements Communication” policy for final approval and seconded by Mr. McClellan. **The motion was approved.**

### **Discussion**

#### **Tuition Increase ..... Mr. McClellan**

Mr. McClellan stated we will have to submit to the IHL soon our three-year plans for tuition. He stated we are in a perfect position to increase our tuition fees for FY16. We are still in the middle to lower grouping of the other universities. With the suggested 5% increase, we will still be in that same range. He feels we can tolerate this increase from an accessibility and affordability standpoint. He will talk to

the other Chief Financial Officers and see if he can gauge what they are planning to do.

**Other Discussion**

- President LaForge stated he mentioned our course cancellation/purge process at the IHL President's meeting, and everyone else is thinking about it as well.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Band Perry, June 29, 7:30 pm, McCool Stadium
- Cabinet Retreat, July 21-22
- Opening Session, August 14, 10:30 am, BPAC
- GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, Grand Opening, November 14

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, June 29, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Capital Campaign Overview (Keith)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.