

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: March 2, 2015

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Wayne Blansett, Mr. Keith Fulcher, Dr. David Hebert, 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.

Absent: Dr. Debbie Heslep

Guests: Ms. Christy Riddle, Executive Director of the Student Success Center
Ms. Jeanna Wilkes, Student Success Advisor
Dr. Ethan Schmidt, Assistant Professor of History and Director of the First Year Seminar
Ms. Thomasa Jackson, Workforce Investment Act Coordinator
Dr. Beverly Moon, Dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on March 2, 2015. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge held a moment of silence in remembrance of Dr. Henry Outlaw, Chair Emeritus of the Department of Physical Sciences and Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, who passed away on February 21.
- President LaForge announced we will have a recap at our next Cabinet meeting of the Emergency Preparedness Plan that was utilized for the recent weather situation.
- President LaForge announced Dr. Jim Borsig, new IHL Commissioner, is now the primary contact at IHL, even though current Commissioner Hank Bounds doesn't officially leave office until April 15. Dr. Borsig will be a great friend for Delta State because he understands the needs of the regional universities.
- President LaForge announced the four new IHL Board members who will each serve a nine year term beginning on May 9, 2015. They are: Thomas Duff, Glenn McCullough, Dr. Alfred McNair, and Chip Morgan.
- President LaForge announced Dr. LouAnn Woodward has been named the Vice Chancellor of the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and she will begin her new role this summer.
- President LaForge announced Mikel Sykes and Dr. Rebecca Hochradel were recognized at the HEADWAE luncheon in Jackson, and Dr. Noah Lelek received the Diversity Educator Award at the IHL Board Meeting.
- President LaForge said he spoke at Mississippi Delta Community College's Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony recently. They had about sixty inductees and, of those, at least 15 plan on attending Delta State.

- President LaForge announced he had the pleasure of introducing Mr. David Abney as part of his induction into the Greenwood Hall of Fame. Mr. Abney also agreed to be our Commencement Speaker at the May 2015 ceremony, and will be awarded an Honorary Degree.
- President LaForge announced he spoke at the Alumni Association Board Meeting recently, and he gave an update on DSU activities.
- President LaForge announced he attended the Junior Auxiliary's Charity Ball along with several other DSU faculty and Staff.
- President LaForge congratulated Mr. Mayers and the Statesmen Swimming and Diving team for winning the New South Intercollegiate Swim Conference Championship. He also congratulated Coach Dan'l Murray for being named Coach of the Year. Students Fabrice Wendel and Matteo Fraschi shared the NSISC Men's Swimmer of the Year honors.
- President LaForge congratulated the Lady Statesmen and Statesmen on their basketball victories over rival Mississippi College. It was a great win and a great atmosphere in Sillers Coliseum.
- President LaForge announced they wrapped up the accreditation visit for Family and Consumer Sciences via a phone conference, due to the weather, and he met with accreditors for the School of Nursing via a phone conference. Both visits went well, and they had positive things to say about our programs. The Doctor of Nurse Practitioner program met every standard and every sub-standard. We also received a positive response from our Aviation accreditation visit.
- President LaForge announced he gave a welcome to East Side High School students last week, and had a lunch meeting with Judson Thigpen and Michael Aguzzi from the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce.
- President LaForge announced he attended the Great Gatsby event at the BPAC last week and the Thacker Mountain Radio show over the weekend. The Thacker Mountain Radio show will re-broadcast on March 21.
- President LaForge announced that this week he will welcome the Mississippi Association of Staff Council Officers (MASCO) to our campus, speak to the Greenwood Lions Club Youth Leadership Group, and meet with Dr. Lance Line and other community/campus people to discuss a possible concert/festival event in Cleveland. Other events include the Colloquia Lecture Series with Justice Leslie King on Wednesday and an alumni event in Hattiesburg on Thursday.
- President LaForge will hold his monthly First Friday Faculty meetings this Friday.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet Members the details surrounding the Band Perry event which is scheduled for April 9 on Delta State's football field. The event will be a fundraiser for GRAMMY Museum Mississippi, and 500 tickets are available for Delta State students at a reduced rate of \$10.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Blansett, seconded by Ms. Read, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on February 16, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

Student Retention InitiativesMs. Christy Riddle, Ms. Jeanna Wilkes, and Dr. Ethan Schmidt

The Student Retention initiative has been a focus for the last year and a half. Ms. Riddle gave an overview of what has taken place. In the Fall of 2012, they had one Division and by the Fall of 2014 they had five Divisions. A committee, comprised of 25 members, worked on the retention plan. Ms. Wilkes presented the retention and graduation rates for first-time, full time freshman and transfer students, including information for those who left and why they left. She also discussed the S.O.S. Early Alert system for at-risk students, the Top Hat program, and undeclared advising. Ms. Wilkes

discussed the pass rate for developmental courses and uses of the academic support lab. Finally, Dr. Schmidt discussed the enhanced GST course structure and its successes. (See attached PowerPoint presentation for details).

** The suggestion was made to combine the various academic support labs and tutors from across campus (math, writing, etc.) with the Student Success Center. Dr. McAdams will discuss this idea with the Deans, and will report their suggestions back to Cabinet.*

** The suggestion was made for the talking points, regarding the success/services of the Student Success Center, be incorporated into the Summer Orientation session, and also shared with the Admissions Recruiters for use when talking with prospective students and parents.*

** Discuss at a later Cabinet meeting the Okra Scholars and International Student Programs.*

BUSINESS

Workforce Investment Act FundingMr. McClellan and Ms. Jackson

Mr. McClellan presented information on how we have gone from having 10 academic programs and 10 students enrolled in the WIA program to 38 academic programs and 128 students. Students received an average of \$1,388 for the spring semester. There is more opportunity, and the goal is to receive \$1 million in funding. Students are eligible their last three semesters, must have a 2.0 GPA, and be working towards their first bachelor's degree. This is a Department of Labor program, issued through Mississippi's Planning and Development districts. The goal is to have these students graduate and employed within six months of graduating.

Community College Tuition Recruitment Plan.....Dr. Moon

Dr. Moon stated that Wendy Stevens, who is a Graduate Admissions Recruiter, has been working the last couple of months and has made a lot of progress in a short time. She shared with Cabinet members the schedule of the planned visits to College Fairs. Ms. Stevens sent an email blast to students and college counselors. There are 74 students who are in the application stage, and 23 have enrolled.

Assets For Independence Program UpdateDr. Moon

Dr. Moon distributed a list of students who have begun to save money for the program as well as students who are waiting for budget approval in order to start saving money. The students need at least six months to save \$500. Once they have saved the \$500, then they are awarded \$4,000. Dr. Moon said she needs \$28,000 in the budget so she can let the 14 students, who are on the wait list, proceed.

** The Executive Committee will discuss this on Friday.*

Purge Date.....Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan met with this committee, and they discussed having two purge dates. He will take this recommendation to the Dean's Council, and will bring a final recommendation to Cabinet. He hopes to launch the communication plan by April 1.

Sustainability Committee..... Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan requested to move this item to next week’s Cabinet meeting.

Legislative Update Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts announced that March 18 is the new date for the Student Luncheon with Legislators (Brown Bag). The current appropriations bill does not include additional funding for the IHL system. Legislators distributed the \$166 million in additional revenue to four areas: K-12, bridges/infrastructure, tax cut, and the Medical Center’s residency program. The \$36 million for faculty/staff raises has not been funded yet. Delta State will not receive any bond money this year because we received our funding in the first two years (\$2 million in 2013 and \$14.5 million in 2014). The University Presidents wrote a joint letter to the newspapers to explain our budget needs.

Discussion

- Dr. Tabb distributed the mailer for the Winning the Race conference that is being sent to the contact list. It contains the schedule and a registration form. She also displayed the website where people can register for the conference. We have raised more than \$55,000 for the conference.
- Mr. Fulcher shared with Cabinet Members the amount raised from the Fashion Rules – Music Rocks event. The show generated a profit of \$10,000, and \$100,000 was raised for scholarships.
- Ms. Read announced that Staff Council’s Staff Development Day will be held on May 14.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Colloquia Series – Justice Leslie King, March 4, Reception at 5:00 pm in the President’s Conference Room, Lecture at 6:00 pm in Jobe Auditorium
- Student Lunch with Legislators (Brown Bag), Wednesday, March 18th, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, State Capitol
- Go Green Weekend, March 27-28, Campus
- 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, March 9, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Cabinet Planning Guide: (1) Enrollment and Student Success, (2) Student Financial Support, (3) Student Housing, (4) Student Involvement and Experiences

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.