

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: March 30, 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, and Ms. Leigh Emerson.

Absent: Mr. Mikel Sykes and Dr. Myrtis Tabb

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

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- President LaForge welcomed a group of Bayou Academy's juniors and seniors to campus last week. He also attended the BPAC performance of "Heart Behind the Music" with guests Magnolia Gatlin, SGA's Governmental Affairs Committee chair, and other students.
- President LaForge traveled to Columbus, MS. He met with Joe Max Higgins who works with the Golden Triangle Development project. He had media interviews with WCBI-TV and the *Commercial Dispatch* newspaper. He was the guest speaker at the Columbus Exchange Club. He visited with East Mississippi Community College president Dr. Rick Young, and he visited with students at the Mississippi School for Math and Science.
- President LaForge has several meetings and events scheduled this week. He will attend the Race Conference on Monday and Tuesday. He will host a dinner on Tuesday evening for Mr. David Abney and the other International Business Symposium speakers, and he will give the welcome at the Symposium on Wednesday morning. He will also film the Fireside Chat with David Abney. He plans to speak to the Phi Theta Kappa class at Northwest Community College this week. Also, he will meet with a group to discuss the details for the TFA Internship proposal for the Hearin Foundation.
- President LaForge asked Dr. McAdams for a status report on our SACS Monitoring report which is due on April 1. Dr. McAdams reported that Dr. Beverly Moon submitted the report this past weekend.
- President LaForge will attend the Cleveland Music Foundation Board Meeting on Thursday, and he announced the date for the grand opening of GRAMMY Museum Mississippi has been changed to November 14th.
- President LaForge announced the Fulbright representatives for Delta State are: Dr. Charles McAdams (Chief Academic Officer), Ms. Robin Boyles (Chief Grants Officer), and President LaForge (Fulbright alumnus).
- President LaForge announced the SGA election results. He stated that Mr. Mikel Sykes ran unopposed, and will be the first student to serve two terms as SGA president.
- President LaForge reminded everyone of the Good Friday holiday.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. McClellan, seconded by Dr. Blansett, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on March 23, 2015.

CABINET TOPIC

Capital Improvements Budget Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan distributed a prioritized list of capital improvement projects, along with their estimated costs, based on submissions from groups across campus. We have \$300,000 budgeted internally, but we will wait to see what our legislative funding is before we move forward. We may need to reprioritize the list once we know how much money we will receive from the legislature. Three items were discussed for moving up their priority:

1. Outdoor lighting
2. University Storage Area Network
3. Campus Signage

BUSINESS

Legislative Update Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts discussed the actions the legislature has taken. The deadline for conference reports was Saturday at 8:00 pm, but there is nothing in writing yet. State revenue for the last few months was less than they had predicted. The items they were working on are capital improvements, pay increases for university faculty and staff, and financial assistance for students. They agreed to do a deficit appropriation for the \$5 million financial assistance request. It seems that IHL will receive approximately \$18 million for salary increases, which equates to approximately a two and a half percent increase across the board. The Senate planned to fund capital improvements at last year’s level (\$17 million), but the House distributed the money to individual projects instead, meaning we have about \$5 million to share with a handful of other schools. Our previous line items were approved: E-learning, Aviation, and Delta Center. The Delta Music Institute received line-item funding this year, as well. The IHL Board appointees were approved by the committee, and will go to the full Senate for a vote.

Go Green Weekend Dr. Heslep/Mr. Fulcher/Mr. Mayers

Dr. Heslep discussed the weekend from an admissions view point. We had 48 students to attend from high schools and community colleges, of which 33 have applied for admission. She felt it went fairly well. Mr. Mayers said the Wyatt Golf Tournament went well, despite the cold weather. They had 18 teams pay their entry fee, and Dr. Kent Wyatt’s team won. In sports, both the baseball and softball teams won the series. Mr. Fulcher stated that, from an alumni/foundation view point, it was okay. There wasn’t a lot of participation, but it is something we can build on. They would rather have it during All Sports weekend, which is held later in April.

Jackson Preview Day Plans.....Dr. Heslep

The Jackson preview day will be held on Tuesday, April 7th from 4:30-7:00 pm at the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame center. They have distributed flyers to all of the area schools and sent eblasts to 2,800 high school juniors and seniors. The Graduate Office and the Alumni office have also emailed their groups in that area to invite them. This event will be similar to the Memphis event, but without the breakout sessions. Communications and Marketing is doing a pre-event media day on April 2nd to

advertise the event and get the word out early. All the academic departments and organizations will be represented. President LaForge asked for the Alumni chapters to take ownership of events like this.

Discussion

- President LaForge announced that we will host a “coffee and desserts” reception, prior to the Cabinet meeting on April 13, for the family of Dr. Henry Outlaw. We will present them with a Senate resolution for Dr. Outlaw.
- President LaForge announced that we will not have a Cabinet meeting on April 20th because he will be in Washington, DC

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Race Conference, March 30-31
- International Business Symposium, April 1, 8:00 am, Baioni Conference Center
- Jackson Preview Day, April 7, MS Sports Hall of Fame building
- Retirement and Service Award Program, April 24, 2:00 pm. Union 2nd Floor Lobby
- Dr. Wayne Blansett Retirement Reception, April 25, 3:00 pm, KWH Atrium
- Spring Commencement, May 9, 10:00 am, Walter Sillers Coliseum
- Staff Development Day, May 14, Jacob Conference Center/Walking Trail

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, April 6, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Student Success Center Update (Charles)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.