

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: October 27, 2014

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

Members not in attendance: Mr. Keith Fulcher, Mr. Steve McClellan, and Ms. Marilyn Read

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on October 27, 2014. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

- President LaForge displayed copies of the Delta State ads and articles that were in recent editions of the *Bolivar Commercial* and *Clarion Ledger*.
- President LaForge presented Mr. Ronnie Mayers with certificates to give to the students who won the Halbrook Awards.
- President LaForge announced that he had good visits with Lewisburg High School and DeSoto Central last week. He also attended a social that the recruiters held for all the high school seniors in the area. It was the first time they have done this. Dr. Heslep said it was a good event, and she took lots of notes of ways they could improve it next time.
- President LaForge had a conversation with a past university president, who is associated with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), to discuss how we could revamp the four student service offices on the first floor of Kent Wyatt Hall. The Executive Committee will discuss some ideas and will bring them back to Cabinet for discussion.
- President LaForge received an email question about a \$12,000 raise he received last year. He said the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Board voted in October 2013 to increase the base salary for the presidents at all four regional universities.
- President LaForge announced bittersweet news that Dr. Wayne Blansett will retire in June 2015. President LaForge offered his great appreciation for Dr. Blansett's forty years of service to DSU. We will start a search for a replacement after the new year.
- President LaForge announced that there has been a case filed against him by Dr. William Hays, and it will be vigilantly defended.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

On motion by Mr. Mayers, seconded by Dr. Hebert, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on October 20, 2014.

CABINET TOPIC:

None

BUSINESS:

(Mr. McClellan called into the meeting for the discussions on budget savings and room and board rate.)

Budget Savings Report - Phase 2 President LaForge

President LaForge distributed a report listing the proposed budget cuts for Phase 2 which totals \$65,000. Cabinet Members discussed the proposed cuts. These additional cuts will get us to our required amount of \$1 million. A document was distributed that provided the proposed messaging plan for the budget reductions.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Roberts to approve the plan for Phase 2 of budget cuts and seconded by Dr. McAdams. **The motion was approved.**

* Mr. McClellan will continue to explore the idea of a 4.5 day work week to see if there is potential for real savings, discuss consolidating summer school classes into fewer buildings, and moving custodial staff to regular hours to save on electricity.

Room and Board Rate Proposal for FY16 and FY17 Dr. Blansett

Dr. Blansett distributed the room and board rate proposal for the next three years. The amount for Lawler-Harkins residence halls was increased due to the fact that all of the bathrooms will be redone. There are two other universities that are staying within the 4% increase. We have submitted these numbers to the IHL office.

Motion: Moved by Mr. McClellan to approve the Room and Board rates for FY16 and FY17 and seconded by Mr. Mayers. **The motion was approved.**

“Tobacco Free Environment” Policy (Final Reading)..... Dr. Blansett

Dr. Blansett distributed the revised “Tobacco-Free Environment” Policy. He was asked to make a couple of grammatical changes to the “Faculty and Staff” section.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Blansett to approve the policy for final reading and seconded by Dr. McAdams. **The motion was approved.**

“Tuition Remission – Employees and Spouses” Policy [combined policies on “Tuition Remission-Employees” and “Scholarship-Spouse of University Employees”] (Final Reading)..... Dr. Tabb

Dr. Tabb made changes to the consolidated policy based on suggestions by Cabinet Members and added the eligibility timeline. She was also asked to make a small change under Spouse Eligibility—change “following” to “first date of the academic semester.”

Motion: Moved by Dr. Tabb to approve this policy for final reading and seconded by Dr. Blansett. **The motion was approved.**

Dual Enrollment.....Dr. McAdams/Dr. Heslep

Dr. Heslep gave a presentation explaining the difference between Dual Enrollment and Dual Credit (see handout). Both of these are handled through the Admissions Office. The question was raised regarding the fee we charge high school students for dual enrollment. We have charged \$60 per three hour course for the last few years, and the percentage of those students who have enrolled at DSU has declined. The DSU students are paying \$753 for the same seat in the classroom. The Cleveland School District has asked for a discounted fee for their students. Dr. McAdams and Dr. Heslep believe that we should charge either full price or possibly 75% of the rate (\$564) for dual enrollment students.

*They will bring this back to a future Cabinet meeting as an action item on the Cabinet agenda.

Student Issue Dr. Blansett

Dr. Blansett discussed that we had an altercation between two students. A hearing was held with the two students and the hearing committee has made a recommendation regarding the sanctions. The accused student is deciding whether to accept the punishment. If not, the student can appeal the punishment to Dr. Blansett and then to President LaForge.

Discussion:

- Dr. McAdams gave an update regarding a meeting he had with Ad Astra officials and DSU personnel. Ad Astra is a classroom and event planning software that IHL purchased for the universities to use. We tried to implement this product a few years ago, but the experience was not very positive. The product would not work with Banner, and so we dropped the project. There have been some upgrades to the product and a new sales team is on board with Ad Astra, and so we will try again to make this product work for us. We are sending to them our process for event planning. We will try to implement the classroom portion of the product in the Spring with plans for full use in the Fall, and we will work on the Event Scheduling portion.
- The Courtesy Committee is selling Fighting Okra and Statesmen framed metal prints, and they were displayed to the Cabinet members. The cost is \$40 each.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- DSU vs University of North Alabama, November 1, 6:00 pm/Reception at 5:30 pm
- “Sister Act” BPAC Performance, November 11, 7:30 pm
- Wade Statue Dedication Ceremony, November 14, 2:00 pm, lawn of Kent Wyatt Hall
- Dr. Kent Wyatt’s 50th Anniversary Celebration, November 15, 12:30 pm, State Room
- DSU Homecoming vs Mississippi College, November 15, 4:00 pm, Parker Field
- Race Conference, March 30-31

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – November 3, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Emergency Preparedness “Desktop Exercise” (Dr. Blansett/Lynn Buford)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.