

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT'S CABINET
Minutes

Meeting date: September 22, 2014

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, Mr. Mikel Sykes, Dr. Myrtis Tabb, and Ms. Leigh Emerson.

Members not in attendance: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on September 22, 2014. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

- President LaForge announced that Mr. Chuck Bowsher, former Comptroller General of the United States, will be our Colloquia Series speaker on Thursday evening. He will speak to classes on Friday and have lunch with President LaForge's Leadership Class.
- President LaForge distributed tickets to the Mississippi Association of Partners in Education (MAPE) dinner where IHL Commissioner Hank Bounds will be recognized. We have an extra ticket if anyone needs it.
- President LaForge reminded Cabinet Members that Cabinet discussions should stay among the members until decisions are made. He recently received emails about the closing of a campus service, and that decision hasn't been made yet.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Cabinet members requested that we change the names in the minutes to proper names. Ms. Emerson will revise the September 15, 2014 minutes to reflect these changes.

CABINET TOPIC:

Recap of Cabinet Advance President LaForge
Dr. Roberts distributed the minutes from the Cabinet Retreat and the proposed "Planning Guide for the President's Cabinet: 2014-15" that was developed from those minutes. All but three of the "Focus Areas" from the Cabinet Retreat are included in the Planning Guide. The areas not included are: (1) Teacher Education program (Dr. McAdams has invited Dr. Leslie Griffin to discuss this program at a future Cabinet meeting), (2) Adherence to NCAA guidelines (this is done on an ongoing basis), and (3) Employee Housing (Mr. McClellan said campus housing is adequate for current needs).

We will use the Planning Guide in four ways: (1) as a measuring stick for our progress and success, (2) as a refresher discussion in July to see where we are with our plans, (3) as a review of our priorities for the year, and (4) as a tool in our budget planning process. It is very important that we get buy-in from faculty/staff. We will bring back sections of the Planning Guide throughout the year as Cabinet topics for further review and discussion.

BUSINESS:

“Tobacco Free Environment” Policy Revisions Dr. Blansett

Dr. Blansett distributed the revised policy. The only additional information needed is the sanctions for faculty/staff who don't abide by the policy. President LaForge asked Dr. Blansett to decide on the sanctions and bring the revised policy, with changes noted, back to Cabinet for approval.

“Scholarship - Spouse of University Employees” Policy Revisions Dr. Tabb

Dr. Tabb distributed a redlined revised policy stating that spouses of DSU faculty and staff will receive six (6) hours of tuition remission. Cabinet members suggested adding this statement to our employee policy instead of having a separate policy. Cabinet members also suggested that we look at the LGBT legal aspects of the definition of “spouse” while we are revising this policy.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Tabb to approve this policy for first reading and seconded by Mr. Mayers. Cabinet Members discussed the changes and determined that the revisions need further review. **The motion was recommitted.**

* Dr. Tabb will look into these questions and legal issues and bring this item back for review at a future Cabinet meeting.

NCAA Eligibility Issues and Academic ProbationDr. McAdams

This topic was tabled from the last meeting since Mr. Mayers was not at the meeting. Dr. McAdams stated that Academic Council discussed what students can/cannot do while they are on academic probation. There are no restrictions as of now. The NCAA needs something in writing stating if there are any restrictions. Academic Council approved the following statement, “Probation status does not prohibit participation in extra-curricular activities.” This statement reflects the actions we use now for academics. Also, Dr. McAdams shared with Cabinet members the fact that if a student-athlete has a major of “undeclared”, then credit hours from any area count as progress towards a degree. It seems that some coaches are advising student-athletes not to declare a major until their junior year. Athletics needs to work with the Student Success Center on advising our athletes. Mr. Mayers said they need a report from the Registrar’s Office in January and May so that student-athletes can take classes during the summer, if needed, to be eligible.

* Dr. McAdams and Mr. Mayers will continue the discussion and will bring a report back to Cabinet regarding the process that will be used, noting the responsible person/office, for monitoring a student-athlete’s eligibility as it relates to progress toward a degree.

Dual Enrollment ProceduresDr. McAdams/Dr. Heslep

Dr. McAdams explained that “dual enrollment” is when a high school student is also taking classes on Delta State’s campus, and that “dual credit” is when a high school student receives high school and college credit for coursework taught at their high school by college accredited high school teachers. The charge has been \$60 per student for both “dual enrollment” and “dual credit.” We have 165 students participating in this program now with a revenue of \$7,000. There was discussion regarding the fact that there is a much higher fixed cost for “dual enrollment” students because the courses are taught by our faculty, in our facilities, with fixed overhead costs. Delta State students pay \$750 per course while a high school student, enrolled in the same class, is paying \$60.

* Dr. McAdams and Dr. Heslep will discuss this issue and bring a proposal back to the Cabinet.

Plans for Pig Pickin' and DSU Day..... Mr. Fulcher/Dr. Heslep

The schedules for both Pig Pickin' and DSU Day were distributed and discussed. There will be an Academic Fair in the Union. We have 22 cook teams signed up and we will have a lot of visitors, alumni, and friends on campus this weekend.

Parking Plan for Stadium/Statesmen Park for Friday Dr. Blansett

Dr. Blansett distributed the guidelines for Friday night's East Side/Cleveland High game along with all of the events for Pig Pickin'. We know there will be a lot of traffic, but the Police Department has a plan and will have a lot of staff to direct traffic. All of the lights from the Kent Wyatt Hall parking lot to the football stadium will be left on.

Facilities Management Roles/Positions Mr. McClellan

Mr. McClellan announced that he has six Facilities Management supervisors who have been moved from non-exempt to exempt status. It will look like they received a raise; however, the change will actually result in budget savings of \$44,000 due to savings in overtime pay.

* Mr. McClellan will add a note (next to the positions) in next year's budget book to explain the change.

Discussion:

- Dr. Tabb informed the Cabinet that we have released an RFP for our OIT services. We have had the Ellucian contract for ten years, and IHL policy states that we need to rebid the contract.
- Dr. Edwin Craft with Ellucian has worked with the CIO's at the other regional universities, and they have renegotiated our contract with AT&T. We will have more bandwidth at less cost in the near future. They will install it during Fall Break which will cause our network to be down for approximately four hours.
- Mr. Fulcher announced that we have received \$45,000 toward the Wyatt Retention Scholarship goal of \$100,000.
- President LaForge attended the LGBT meeting last week. He said it was well attended and well run.
- Dr. Blansett was asked to bring an update on the Yik Yak issue and the possibility of having a blocked zone around our campus. Mr. Sykes proposed having the students to sign a petition to shut it down. Cabinet Members agreed that this was a great idea.
- President LaForge announced that Tom Pittman and the Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi have approved using Delta State as a model to help students learn how to manage personal finances.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- IHL's Human Resources Staff Conference, September 24th, Jacob Conference Center
- Fall Colloquia Series – Mr. Chuck Bowsher, September 25, 6:00 pm, Jobe Auditorium, Reception at 5:00 pm, President's Conference Room
- Pig Pickin' weekend, September 26-27, Football vs Central State, 6:00 pm, Parker Field
- International Blues Conference, October 6-7
- Dr. Kent Wyatt's 50th Anniversary Celebration, November 15, 12:30 pm, State Room
- Race Conference, March 30-31

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – October 13, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Types of Budget Funds (Steve)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.