

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: October 1, 2018

Members in attendance: President William LaForge, Dr. Severine Groh, Mr. Charlie King, Mr. Ronnie Mayers, Dr. Billy Moore, Mr. Rick Munroe, Dr. Christy Riddle, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge
(recorder – Dr. Roberts)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Vernell Bennett and Dr. Charles McAdams

Guests: Mr. Pete Szatmary, Director, Communications and Marketing

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on October 1, 2018. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with President LaForge presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Rutledge and seconded by Dr. Groh, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on September 24, 2018.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Last week, President LaForge met with Mr. John Lewis, with the Gertrude Ford Foundation, and Dr. Monica Marlow, the Executive Director of the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation, regarding funding opportunities. On Tuesday, he hosted his third faculty/staff luncheon of the semester, and his Leadership Class met that evening with Mr. Mayers as the guest speaker. President LaForge had departmental visits with Student Life and Mailing and Printing Services last week. He said he enjoyed visiting with the staff members in those departments and learning more about the services they provide. President LaForge, Dr. Bennett, and Mr. Michael Lipford met with members of the Interfraternity Council, along with their advisors, on Wednesday evening to discuss ways to increase recruitment initiatives. On Thursday, President LaForge met with Mr. and Mrs. John Alexander to discuss a campaign gift. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Social took place on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. The Blues Conference began yesterday afternoon and continues through Tuesday evening.
- Mr. Mayers gave an update on Athletics. He applauded athletics staff for their hard work, especially game day operations. He suggested having a ribbon cutting for Statesmen Boulevard as part of the Homecoming activities. He reported that we will host the North Mississippi Public High School meet in October. The Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony took place this weekend, with a lunch hosted in their honor in the Dorgan Center, and they were recognized during half time of the football game. The football team lost to West Florida on Saturday. Women and Men's soccer teams lost against Lee University on Friday. Women's soccer lost against Shorter University on Sunday, and Men's soccer team won. The Swimming and Diving teams hosted a meet against Rhodes College on Saturday morning, and they won every event. The golf team travels to Henderson State University today for a

golf match. Women and Men’s soccer travel to Jackson, TN for a match against Union University on Friday. On Saturday, the football team travels to Georgia to play against Valdosta. Women and Men’s soccer travel to Memphis on Sunday to play Christian Brothers University.

- Mr. Rutledge gave an update on facilities projects. Statesman Boulevard has a few punch list items remaining. They are hoping to raise money to complete lighting on the backside of the project. Zeigel Hall has been completed. Some of the plants died, and they are working to replace those items. Mr. Rutledge will work with Dr. McAdams to schedule a ribbon cutting ceremony. They will begin work soon on moving the Digital Media Arts Center to the old laundry. They plan to move the Student Success Center to Bailey in December. The landscaping of Caylor-White/Walters is complete. Young-Mauldin cafeteria is on track to be finished mid-October. Bond funds should come available at the end of November, and they will begin working on those projects. They hope to complete the campus lighting project as soon as they can secure a 20% match for the grant. Regarding the new president’s home, they had several meetings last week. They are reviewing the costs to make sure the price is where it needs to be.
- President LaForge shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for the week. Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue will perform at the BPAC on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. On Thursday, President LaForge will participate in a GSC Executive Committee Conference call. That evening, the Art Department will host their annual Faculty Art Exhibit Opening Reception at 5:00 p.m. Also that evening, the Bolivar Medical Center Foundation will host a reception at the Delta Meat Market to celebrate their successes.

CABINET TOPIC

Communications and Marketing UpdateMr. Munroe

Mr. Munroe introduced Mr. Pete Szatmary to present to Cabinet members an update on Communications and Marketing activities. Mr. Szatmary distributed to Cabinet members a list of bullet points for discussion items. Those included: establish quality control of material that colleagues generate or request in order to be more consistent with the brand and message; identify visual needs and opportunities; start a notable alumni list; start an outcomes component to put on the website, include in admission materials, and reference in fundraising materials; create a media guide that lists faculty’s areas of expertise; and, turn CommMark into a type of press secretary office, which will answer on behalf of campus to the media.

BUSINESS

Action

Hiring Requests..... Mr. Mayers/Mr. Rutledge

In response to the Cabinet’s decision that all requests to search for and fill vacant positions will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Cabinet, Mr. Mayers and Mr. Rutledge brought to Cabinet several positions for consideration. The positions presented do not impact the salary savings identified previously to address the budget shortfall.

Athletics Requests

Mr. Mayers requests to search for and hire an Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Mayers to approve the searching and hiring of an Assistant Women’s Basketball Coach for FY19 and seconded by Mr. King. **The motion was approved.**

Academic Affairs Requests

In Dr. McAdams’ absence, Mr. Rutledge presented to Cabinet Members the request to re-hire the Director of the Delta School Leadership Pipeline, which is funded by the grant for the program.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the re-hiring of the Director of the Delta School Leadership Pipeline program for FY19 and seconded by Mr. King. **The motion was approved.**

Probationary Period – Non Faculty policy (revised – final reading) Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge presented to Cabinet members the revised Probationary Period – Non Faculty policy for final reading. The proposed changes include adding a section related to employees who are promoted and/or transfer to another department.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the revised Probationary Period – Non Faculty policy for final reading and seconded by Mr. King. **The motion was approved.**

Tuition Remission – Employees and Spouses policy (revised – final reading) Mr. Rutledge

Mr. Rutledge presented to Cabinet members the revised Tuition Remission – Employees and Spouses policy for final reading. The proposed changes include outlining the eligibility requirements for grant and/or auxiliary employees. Also, Mr. Rutledge removed the dates from the previous version, and he added a sentence to address the scenario for when an employee leaves before the end of semester.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Rutledge to approve the revised Tuition Remission – Employees and Spouses policy for final reading and seconded by Dr. Groh. **The motion was approved.**

Discussion

Campus Forums Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts shared with Cabinet members that there were a couple of conflicts with the earlier proposed date of Tuesday, October 16, and so the campus forums have been rescheduled for Tuesday, November 6.

Student Senate Bill #1.....Mr. King

Mr. King reported that the Student Senate approved their first bill of the year. They voted unanimously to bring back the titles of Mr. and Mrs. DSU, which will replace Mr. and Mrs. Green and White starting with the Fall 2018 semester. The titles of Mr. and Mrs. DSU were changed to Mr. and Mrs. Green and White last year, but the change was not widely accepted by students. Also, Mr. King reported that they impeached the SGA Treasurer for not performing duties. He will appoint a new Treasurer to complete the term. In the interim, Ms. Hart Rogers is serving as both Secretary and Treasurer. Elections for Mr. and Mrs. DSU, as well as the Homecoming court, will take place next Monday and Tuesday on the first floor of the Union. Mr. King will email to Cabinet members the Homecoming elections process.

Additional information

- Dr. Moore invited Cabinet members to attend the International Business Symposium events on October 12 and 13. There will be a reception at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, and Dr. David Abney will speak at 6:00 p.m. in Jobe Hall. On Friday, the lectures will take place from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, and there will be a lunch afterwards in Broom Hall. In addition to Dr. Abney, the speakers include: former U.S. ambassador to Tanzania, Mike Retzer, CEO and owner of Retzer Resources, one of the largest McDonald’s franchisees in the nation; Delta State alumnus Mr. Arian Maliqi, CFO of Press-Seal Corp., which provides infrastructure products for underground collection systems; and, Dr. Darrin Webb, state economist and director of IHL’s University Research Center.

- Mr. Munroe reported that the orientation session for new Foundation Board members will take place on Thursday evening, October 25.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- International Conference on the Blues, September 30 – October 2
- Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue performance, October 2, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Colloquia Series Lecture with Dr. Mark Emmert, President of NCAA, October 9, 6:00 p.m., Jobe Hall
- International Business Symposium, October 11-12
- Oktoberfest, October 12-13, 2018, Downtown Cleveland
- Delta State football vs. Shorter University, October 25, 6:00 p.m. (wear pink), Parker Field. President's Reception at 5:30 p.m., Dorgan Center.

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, October 8 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Visioning Goals for FY19 (Dr. Bennett, Dr. McAdams, Mr. Rutledge)

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.