

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: October 9, 2023

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, Dr. Ellen Green, Mr. David Gladden, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Dr. Christopher Jurgenson, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Ms. Holly Ray, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Ms. Haley Rooks, and Mr. Larry Wakefield (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Edwin Craft and Mr. Mike Kinnison

Guests: Ms. Dana George, Senior Executive Associate Athletic Director for Compliance, Academics, and Internal Operations

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on October 9, 2023. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Ennis presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Ms. Ray, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on October 2, 2023.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce met for their monthly meeting. The Gulf South Conference Board of Directors held a special-called meeting and approved a new member institution. Dr. Ennis filmed a recruitment video to assist with international student recruitment. Dr. Ennis and other university representatives traveled to Batesville to visit a donor and thank them for their donation. Dr. Ennis participated in the investiture ceremony of University of Southern Mississippi President Joe Paul. While out of office, Dr. Ennis visited donors in Atlanta and attended the football game against Valdosta State University.
- In the absence of Mr. Kinnison, Ms. George gave an update on Athletics. The softball team has a scrimmage on Friday afternoon. The football team hosts North Greenville University on Saturday.
- Mr. Wakefield gave an update on Facilities Management projects. A small water leak occurred on campus; however, it falls under the ordinance of the City of Cleveland.
- Ms. Rooks gave an update on student activities. Students are ready for Fall Break beginning on Thursday. Also, campaigning for homecoming court begins tomorrow.
- Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. A group of Cleveland Central High School seniors toured campus today, and Dr. Ennis had the privilege of welcoming them to Delta State. On Tuesday, Dr. Ennis meets with Athletics' staff for their weekly meeting. Dr. Ennis has lunch with Ms. Marilyn Read on Wednesday to celebrate her nomination as September Employee of the Month. Fall Break begins on Thursday for faculty and students. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce hosts Octoberfest this weekend in downtown Cleveland.

- Dr. Roberts announced Ms. Chrisa Mansell will serve as chair of the Inauguration Committee. The preferred date for inauguration is February 16. During Inauguration Week, plans for the Delta State Centennial Celebration will be announced.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

Extended Hours for Roberts-LaForge Library Dr. Griffin

Dr. Griffin brought to Cabinet a flexible work schedule for Roberts-LaForge Library staff to allow for the library to be open on Saturdays. The flexible schedule was created to address Student Senate Resolution 2023-002. Dr. Griffin and Ms. Joi Phillips worked with Ms. Lisa Giger on a flexible work schedule, and it was approved by Academic Council. The flexible work schedule will be used on a trial basis to see the number of students utilizing the library on Saturday. At this time, no additional funds are needed. If the library is utilized by an abundance of students on Saturday, Dr. Griffin and Ms. Phillips will address a full-time solution.

University Leadership Council Dr. Ennis

Dr. Ennis announced the University Leadership Council will assemble for the first time on Monday, October 16. The University Leadership Council will elect its own presiding officer, meet bi-monthly, and will exercise oversight on topics that require intermediate levels of review, that is, in that space between the Cabinet and departments. The goal of the University Leadership Council is to bring together a broader representation of the campus to this group, which will bring more ideas to the forefront when it comes to policy, budgetary, and operational matters.

Town Hall Meetings Dr. Ennis

Dr. Ennis announced his plans to host a Town Hall Meeting each month to provide updates on the budget process. The next Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 24 at 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium of Jobe Hall.

Budget Update Mr. Wakefield

Mr. Wakefield plans to meet with the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Budget Sustainability to discuss plans for the committee prior to the first meeting of the full committee next week.

Recruitment Update/Overview Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin shared an update on recruitment efforts. The Office of Admissions staff will attend 19 college fairs this week and host 25 individual campus tours this week. Dr. Lovin emailed campus constituencies this morning to inform them about the Cleveland Central High School visit. He will continue to do this to encourage engagement of faculty and staff with potential students while they are on campus.

Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Dr. Ennis

The next step in institutional effectiveness and planning for Dr. Ennis is the creation of a Strategic Plan Committee. Dr. Ennis wants to the committee to be a broad representation of faculty, staff, and students with the mindset for the bigger picture of the university. The goal is to convene the Strategic Plan Committee in November.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Fall Break for Faculty and Students, October 12-13
- President's Football Reception, October 14, 5:30 p.m., Dorgan Center
- Delta State Football vs. North Greenville University, October 14, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field-McCool Stadium (Wear Pink)
- Johnny Cash: The Official Concert Experience, October 19, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Town Hall Meeting, October 24, 3:00 p.m., Jobe Hall Auditorium

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, October 23, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.