

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: July 22, 2024

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, Ms. Arlene Cash (by phone), Dr. Edwin Craft, Ms. Amber Hays, Mr. Shaun Kelly, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Ms. Hayden Kirkhart, Dr. Eddie Lovin, and Dr. Suzette Matthews (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Leslie Griffin

Guests: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on July 22, 2024. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Ennis presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Dr. Craft, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on June 24, 2024.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- On behalf of Cabinet members, Dr. Ennis welcomed Dr. Suzette Matthews and Ms. Arlene Cash. Dr. Matthews began her position as Vice President for University Advancement on July 1, and Ms. Cash began her position as Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management on July 21.
- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events of the last few weeks. Delta State hosted Mississippi legislators and representatives from the Bureau of Buildings, Legislative Budget Office, and the Institutions of Higher Learning for a facilities tour. The tour of facilities and presentation of needs highlighted all areas of the university. Delta State and Hayes Cooper Center extended their agreement, and Hayes Cooper Center will be housed in Kethley Hall this academic year. The legislature provided funds for Kethley Hall to be renovated to accommodate the needs of an elementary school. Delta State will not incur any financial debts for housing Hayes Cooper Center. Dr. Ennis and Dr. Matthews visited several donors in the Atlanta area recently. Delta Council invited Dr. Ennis to meet with the Delta Council officers and Delta Council past presidents to provide an update on Delta State.
- Dr. Craft provided an update on facilities projects. Construction and renovations within Kethley Hall are not complete currently, and the first day of school for students is August 5. The east side of the Quadrangle will be off limits for parking during the academic year, and traffic cannot access the east side from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Facilities Management staff members are preparing campus for the return of our students. Also, Dr. Craft hired Mr. Forest Upchurch to be the new Project Manager for Facilities Management.
- Ms. Kirkhart gave an update on SGA activities. SGA and Staff Council are working on a collaborative event along with Rolling Fork Rising to conduct another community service day in Rolling Fork in the coming months. SGA members are writing a tailgating policy.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. Student-athletes are on campus to participate in strength

and conditioning exercises. The Night of Champions fundraiser is August 1. Mr. Kinnison announced Athletics is close to their goal of thirty-five additional student athletes, and the recruitment has been a combined effort by all staff and coaches.

- Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members the events and activities for the week. The ROTC graduation is Friday. This program assists in producing pilots to reduce the pilot shortage. Delta State and Northwest Mississippi Community College have a transfer agreement signing ceremony this week. Dr. Ennis hopes to replicate this process with other community colleges. Dr. Ennis invited community leaders to his home on Friday, August 2 to mingle and hear an update about Delta State.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Americans with Disabilities policy (revised – final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the revised Americans with Disabilities policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Dr. Lovin informed Cabinet members a student is not required to apply each semester to be provided their accommodations. A student must submit their schedule to the Coordinator of Accessibility Services.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the Americans with Disabilities policy for a final reading and seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion was approved.

Usage of Hill Apartments (deletion – final reading)Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Usage of Hill Apartments policy to Cabinet for approval to sunset the policy. Beginning in Fall 2024, no new students will be housed in Hill Apartments. A sleep-out of Hill Apartments will be in place until all current residents will graduate from their program, withdraw from the University, or are not enrolled in consecutive Fall/Spring semesters.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the deletion of the Usage of Hill Apartments policy and seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion was approved.

Definition of a Student (new – final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Definition of a Student policy to Cabinet for a final reading. This policy provides uniform guidelines defining a student at Delta State University. Certain members of the campus community at Delta State University shall be designated. 'students' by the University, affording them certain rights and responsibilities, different and distinct from those of the other members of the community.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the Definition of a Student policy for a final reading and seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion was approved.

Discussion

Hiring Requests Cabinet Members

In following the hiring guidance set forth by Dr. Ennis, Cabinet members presented their requests for review. After review by Cabinet members, Dr. Griffin and Dr. Craft will meet with Dr. Ennis to provide additional context as to the need for the given position or positions prior to Dr. Ennis granting or denying hiring approval.

Academic Affairs requests

Dr. Griffin requested to search for and hire an Instructor/Assistant Professor of Practice in the College of Business and Aviation, the Destination Graduation Director, and a part-time Graduate Coordinator.

Finance and Administration requests

Dr. Craft requested to search for and hire an HVAC supervisor.

Hiring Requests Approvals Ms. Cole

Ms. Cole gave an update on the hiring requests approved since the last Cabinet meeting.

Cabinet Advance..... Dr. Ennis

Dr. Ennis informed Cabinet members Cabinet Advance is Tuesday, August 6, at the Cutrer Mansion in Clarksdale, MS. Transportation and lunch are provided. Dr. Valmadge Towner, President of Coahoma Community College, will be the guest speaker. Dr. Ennis requested each Cabinet member prepare their top three to five goals for their units to share with Cabinet members for discussion.

University Policy Updates and PolicyStat Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin encouraged Cabinet members to begin looking into their respective policies for review. All policies should reflect the budget changes made during the 2023-2024 budget cycle. 211 policies still need to be reviewed.

Requests for Public Safety and University Police Presence at Events..... Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin requested Cabinet members to request police presence at events earlier to ensure the appropriate number of officers and support staff are present.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Final Exams for Summer Session II, August 1
- A Night of Champions featuring Archie Manning, August 1, 6:30 p.m., Walter Sillers Coliseum
- Summer Graduation, August 5
- Cabinet Advance, August 6, 9:00 a.m., Cutrer Mansion
- Welcome Back Reception hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, August 15, 5:00 p.m., The Warehouse
- Convocation and State of the University, August 16, 10:30 a.m., BPAC
- Takin' Care of Business, August 16, 1:00 p.m.
- Convocation Open House Reception, August 16, 5:00 p.m., President's Home

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, August 19, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.