

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: July 24, 2023**

**Members in attendance:** Dr. Dan Ennis, Dr. Ellen Green, Dr. Christopher Jurgenson, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Mr. Rick Munroe, Dr. Andy Novobilski, Ms. Holly Ray, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Ms. Haley Rooks, and Mr. Larry Wakefield (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

**Members not in attendance:** Mr. Mike Kinnison

**Guests:** Dr. Edwin Craft, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration  
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 July 24, 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 Dr. Jurgenson, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on July 11, 2023.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members that he is aware of the recent *Mississippi Today* article, and he is researching the situation. A message from Dr. Ennis will be sent to university leadership later today. As a reminder, the university does not comment on personnel matters.
- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. Dr. Ennis spoke to the Administrative Staff Council during their July meeting, and he was the guest speaker for the Cleveland Exchange Club at their meeting last week. The Delta Music Institute Summer Camp concluded last week with their Summer Camp Showcase. Dr. Ennis was unable to attend but he provided a recorded message for participants. Dr. Ennis enjoyed a lunch session with President Emeritus Kent Wyatt and former Interim President E. E. Caston. Dr. Ennis traveled to Jackson last week and met with high school administrators, legislators, donors, alumni, Commissioner Al Rankins, and others. Dr. Ennis met with Madison-Ridgeland Academy Head of School Termie Land, and he suggested engaging with the school more and the many alumni that work there. Dr. Ennis met with Mr. John Lewis of the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation and Mr. Matt Holleman of the Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation. Both foundations are pleased with Delta State's stewardship of funds. Dr. Ennis visited with President and CEO of the Mississippi Economic Council Scott Waller and discussed Mississippi colleges and universities being a part of workforce development. The Executive Editor of *The Clarion Ledger* Mark Konradi and Journalist Ross Reily invited Dr. Ennis to tour their facility and to have lunch with them. Mr. Munroe shared with Cabinet members an update on the Greater Jackson Alumni Chapter meeting from last week. Several alumni were in attendance, and several were attending for the first time.

- In the absence of Mr. Kinnison, Ms. George gave an update on Athletics. The student-athletes are returning gradually for voluntary summer workouts. All Athletics staff are working with the student-athletes to ensure they are prepared for classes in the coming weeks.
- Mr. Wakefield shared an update on Facilities projects. Delta State received emergency approval from the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration to begin temporary repairs on the roofs of the Child Development Center, the Provost’s home, Mayers Aquatics Center, Chadwick-Dickson Building, Center for Community and Economic Development Building, and Broom Hall. Insurance funds will be used to fund the temporary repairs. The ADA portion of the BPAC project began last week. The elevator portion of the project should be finalized within two years. The notice to proceed for the Mississippi Department of Transportation sidewalk project was received today, and the construction begins tomorrow.
- Ms. Rooks provided an update on Student Government association activities. Ms. Rooks and SGA Attorney General Hayden Kirkhart attended the Campus Victory Project Summit in Washington, D.C. Ms. Rooks shared the Summit was great for networking, and she and Ms. Kirkhart met with U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.
- Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. The Enrollment Group met this morning and reviewed information discussed at the Cabinet Advance, and the group was presented with the Enrollment Trends Dashboard. Dr. Ennis leaves tomorrow for the AASCU New President’s Academy.

**CABINET TOPIC**

None

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

None

**Discussion**

**Cabinet Advance ..... Dr. Ennis**

Cabinet members met last week for their annual Cabinet Advance and did a deep dive on enrollment and retention. A recap of the Cabinet Advance will occur at a future Cabinet meeting in order to prioritize the university’s next steps.

**Budget Update ..... Mr. Wakefield**

Mr. Wakefield shared a budget update with Cabinet members. The university concluded FY23 with a deficit of \$1.7 million. The E&G budget will be balanced, but the Auxiliaries budget will not be balanced. Delta State will be required to report our financial standing to IHL more frequently in FY24, and we are required to make progress on our financial sustainability in the areas of annual debt service, cash on hand, reserves, and athletics funds. The FY24 budget should be released in Banner today or tomorrow.

**Recruitment Update/Overview..... Dr. Lovin**

Dr. Lovin provided an update on recruitment and enrollment. The enrollment reports from last week provided a head count of 1,990 students. If any Cabinet member cannot access the Power BI enrollment reports, please contact Ms. Chrisa Mansell in the Office of Institutional Research, Effectiveness, and Planning.

**Institutional Effectiveness and Planning .....Dr. Novobilski**

To complete the reaffirmation packet for Delta State’s SASCOC review, Dr. Novobilski requested additional information and documents from several Cabinet members.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Summer Work Schedule ends, August 3
- Student Move-In Day, August 9
- Takin’ Care of Business Day, August 9
- New Student Okration, August 10-12
- Faculty Development Day, August 10
- Convocation, August 10, 3:00 p.m., BPAC
- Chamber of Commerce Welcome Back Event for Faculty and Staff, August 10, 5:00 p.m., The Warehouse
- Luncheon for Faculty and Staff, August 11, 11:00 a.m., Nowell Union 2nd Floor

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.