

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: June 24, 2024

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, Dr. Edwin Craft, Mr. David Gladden, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Ms. Amber Hays Mr. Shaun Kelly, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Ms. Hayden Kirkhart, Dr. Eddie Lovin, and Mr. Larry Wakefield (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Ms. Ashley Tanksley

Guests: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on June 24, 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 Mr. Kelly, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on May 28, 2024.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Ennis announced Ms. Ashley Tanksley has resigned as Interim Vice President for Admissions. Currently, the search firm is working on applicants for the permanent Vice President for Enrollment position. In the interim, Dr. Ennis utilized the Registry to fill the void. He had interviews last week, and he will decide this week.
- The potential candidates for the Vice President for Finance and Administration position were on campus last week for interviews. The search committee meets tomorrow with the search firm to discuss next steps.
- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events of the last few weeks. Dr. Ennis and Mr. Kinnison attended the Gulf South Conference Annual Meeting. Delta State alumnus Josh Bright was inducted into the Gulf South Conference Hall of Fame, and Mr. Patrick Shegog was chosen as one of the Commissioner's Top Ten athletes for the second year in a row. Delta Council hosted their annual meeting earlier this month. Dr. Ennis traveled to Poland for a signing ceremony to reconfirm the university's relationship with Pope John Paul II Catholic University. The Administrative Staff Council hosted Staff Development Day, and Dr. Ennis thanked Ms. Hays and her counterparts for planning the event for staff.
- Dr. Craft provided an update on Facilities Management projects. Hays Cooper Center moves into Kethley Hall on July 15. The funding for the renovations to Kethley Hall is not available until July 1. Languages and Literature faculty are moving to the Roberts-LaForge Library. Social Sciences and History faculty are moving to Jobe Hall. Speech and Hearing and Social Work faculty are moving to Ewing Hall. Some of the faculty from the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing will move into their new spaces on July 15, and others will be displaced to Caylor-White-Walters Hall. The BPAC ADA project continues to make progress.

- Ms. Kirkhart gave an update on SGA activities. Members of SGA participated in their annual retreat and started planning for fall activities. As one of their larger projects for the year, SGA plans to renovate some of the university tennis courts into pickleball courts. Currently, they are waiting on a sponsor for the project.
- Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members some of the events and activities for the week. The Enrollment Group met this morning for their monthly meeting. Dr. Ennis travels to Starkville tomorrow to visit the Mississippi State University Partnership Middle School to gather ideas for potential partnerships between Delta State University and the Cleveland School District. Also, Dr. Ennis will travel to East Mississippi Community College to visit their president. Takin’ Care of Business Day is Wednesday, and 80 students are registered to attend. Sippin’ with the Statesmen travels to Tupelo this Thursday. The BPAC Annual Member Reception is Thursday at Bar Fontaine. The Fall 2024 BPAC lineup will be announced. A retirement and farewell reception will be held on Friday in the Janice Wyatt Conference Room at 2:00 p.m. for Ms. Lisa Giger, Ms. Rebecca Bouse, and Mr. Larry Wakefield.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Strategic Planning Goals Dr. Griffin

Dr. Griffin invited Dr. Merideth Van Namen to discuss the strategic planning initiatives and goals created by the Strategic Planning Committee based on the new university mission statement approved by the IHL Board of Trustees at their June meeting. Dr. Van Namen and her committee attempted to make initiatives and goals comparable for all constituencies of the university. The initiatives and goals are:

- Initiative I: Academic Programming and Student Success
 - Goal 1: Increase Student Learning
 - Delta State University will ensure that its graduates are well-prepared for careers through current, relevant, high-quality programs that are responsive to change and dedicated to continuous improvement.
 - Goal 2: Serve the Total Student
 - Delta State University will recruit and retain an engaged student population and focus on holistic student development to graduate well-rounded contributors to society.
- Initiative II: Campus Environment and Continuous Support
 - Goal 3: Empower Excellence
 - Delta State University will invest in recruiting and fostering dynamic and highly trained employees.
 - Goal 4: Optimize Operations
 - Delta State University will strengthen and advance its financial, physical, and technological resources demonstrating optimal performance in programs and services.

- Initiative III: Community and Alumni
 - Goal 5: Commit to Community
 - Delta State University will impact the region and beyond through outreach and collaboration with community and regional partners.
 - Goal 6: Engage Alumni
 - Delta State University will reinforce the values of degrees earned, expand brand recognition, and deepen engagement with alumni.

Dr. Ennis charged Cabinet members with using the goals and initiatives going forward to make decisions regarding the university.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the strategic planning initiatives and goals and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion was approved.

Academic Reorganization Dr. Griffin

On behalf of the Academic Council, Dr. Griffin presented the proposed academic reorganization. With the deletion of the College of Arts and Sciences, the other two colleges and one school will absorb their remaining programs. The School of Nursing will be transformed into a college. Divisions and departments will be reorganized into divisions and schools. With the reorganization, five chair positions were eliminated. Divisions will be managed by division chairs, and schools will be managed by unit chairs. Unit chairs have additional responsibilities, programs, and students. The reorganization will be in effect beginning July 1, 2024, and the changes are as follows:

- The College of Arts and Sciences will be deleted. The remaining three colleges will be reorganized to absorb their remaining programs.
- The College of Business and Aviation will be comprised of two divisions, one school, and the Delta Music Institute.
 - Division of Accountancy, Computer Information Systems, and GIT
 - School of Management, Marketing, and Business Administration
 - Division of Commercial Aviation
 - Delta Music Institute
- The College of Education, Arts, and Humanities will be comprised of three schools.
 - School of Teacher Education
 - School of Leadership, Research, and Psychology
 - School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
- The School of Nursing will be transformed into the College of Nursing, Health, and Sciences, and it will have one school and two divisions.
 - Robert E. Smith School of Nursing
 - Division of Mathematics and Sciences
 - Division of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the academic reorganization and seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion was approved.

Tree Removal Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft informed Cabinet members several trees on Delta State’s campus are dead and need to be

removed. A few additional trees on campus will be removed due to the issues they are causing to the underground pipes and roofs on campus. All trees removed from Delta State’s campus will be replaced with new trees. The trees to be removed are:

- Six (6) trees are located in front of the Delta State Library.
- One (1) tree located on President’s Corner in front of the old President’s House
- One (1) tree located by the Vice President for Student Affairs house.
- One (1) tree is located on the West side of Ewing.
- One (1) tree is located in front of Wright Arts Building.
- One (1) tree is located in front of Ward Hall.
- One (1) on the North side of the cafeteria.
- Four (4) trees in the parking lot of the Coliseum.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to remove sixteen trees from Delta State’s campus and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion was approved.

Additionally, Cabinet members discussed removing the tree in front of Foundation Hall due to potential damage it can cause to the roof and tree’s roots causing damage to the pipes.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to remove the tree in front of Foundation Hall and seconded by Dr. Lovin. 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, Dr. Craft, and Mr. Wakefield 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.

Finance and Administration requests

Dr. Craft requested to search for and hire a plumber in Facilities Management and a Business Intelligence Report Writer in the Office of Information Technology. Both positions are replacements.

Academic Affairs requests

Dr. Griffin requested to search for and hire a Lead Teacher in the Child Development Center, an Assistant Teacher in Child Development Center, Counseling Lab Director in Counseling Education and Psychology, Assistant Director of GEAR UP, Rising Scholar Coordinator, Coordinator of Academic Support Services, and the DEOC Program Director for the Center for Community and Economic Development.

Hiring Requests Approvals Ms. Cole

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

Organizational Chart..... Ms. Cole

Ms. Cole presented the draft organizational chart for FY25. She asked Cabinet members to submit changes to her prior to July 1, 2024.

Cabinet Advance.....Dr. Ennis
Dr. Ennis informed Cabinet members Cabinet Advance will be the week of July 22. The location and format for the meeting have not been set. Additional details will be provided to Cabinet members soon.

Staff Emeritus.....Ms. Hays
Due to the academic reorganization, Ms. Margaret McClain decided to retire after the cutoff date for staff emeritus nominations. Ms. Hays and Ms. Holly Ray requested to retroactively approve Ms. McClain for staff emeritus status, and Dr. Ennis approved. She was given her award letter last week.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Final Exams for Summer Session I, June 26
- Takin’ Care of Business Day, June 26
- Tupelo Alumni Social, June 27, 5:30 p.m., Hotel Tupelo
- BPAC Annual Member Reception, June 27, 6:00 p.m., Bar Fontaine
- Summer Session II begins, July 2
- July 4th Holiday, July 4-5

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, July 22, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

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