

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: October 23, 2023**

**Members in attendance:** Dr. Dan Ennis, Dr. Edwin Craft, Dr. Ellen Green, Mr. David Gladden, Dr. Christopher Jurgenson, Mr. Mike Kinnison, 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. Leslie Griffin

**Guests:** Dr. Vicki Bingham, Acting Interim Provost  
Ms. Corley Mullins, Director of Alumni Affairs

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on October 23, 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 Mr. Gladden, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on October 9, 2023.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. Dr. Ennis visited with the Delta State cheerleaders and cross-country team. Dr. Ennis attended the Greenville College Access and Attainment Network Announcement event. The University Leadership Council met for the first time, and Dr. Lovin will be the Chair. Dr. Ennis had lunch with Dr. Lisa Bramuchi, Cleveland School District Superintendent and Ms. Ashondra Johnson, Principal of Cleveland Central High School. The Ad Hoc Committee on Budget Sustainability met for the first time and received their charge from Dr. Ennis. Dr. Ennis gathered community stakeholders together for a meeting to provide a university update. The Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning met for their monthly meeting. Dr. Ennis attended the visitation of Mrs. Miriam Ferriss. The BPAC hosted Johnny Cash: The Official Concert Experience. Dr. Ennis attended the Ground Zero Foundation launch party in Clarksdale last week.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The baseball and softball teams are completing their fall practice schedules this week. The baseball team has their Green and White Scrimmage games on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. The men's soccer team defeated Lee University and Shorter University over the weekend, and the women's soccer team lost to Lee University and defeated Shorter University over the weekend. Both teams travel to Auburn University Montgomery on Friday and University of Montevallo on Sunday. The men's basketball team has a scrimmage against University of Southern Mississippi tomorrow night. The golf team is competing at the University of West Georgia today and tomorrow. The cross-country team competed in the Gulf South Conference Championship in Huntsville, and they placed twelfth overall. Both tennis teams competed in the

Jackson State University Invitational this weekend. The football team lost to the University of West Florida, and they will compete again on November 4 against University of West Georgia.

- Mr. Wakefield gave an update on Facilities Management projects. An architect firm took samples of university roofs last week, and the samples will be analyzed for damage. The additional assessment on the university roofs provided proof of the extensive damage made by the hail storm in June. The final report of damage is forthcoming.
- Ms. Rooks gave an update on student activities. The election for Homecoming Court is today and tomorrow.
- Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. The Enrollment Group meets for their monthly meeting on Wednesday. Dr. Ennis has an interview with SuperTalk Radio on Thursday. Dr. Ennis will be out of office on Friday, Monday, and Tuesday with official university meetings.

**CABINET TOPIC**

None

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

None

**Discussion**

**Homecoming..... Mr. Gladden and Ms. Rooks**

Mr. Gladden invited Ms. Corley Mullins to Cabinet to discuss Homecoming events for alumni and friends. The Alumni Association Awards Gala and Golden Circle Induction Ceremony is Friday, November 10 in the Leroy E. Morganti Atrium at 6:30 p.m. On Saturday morning, the Salute Veterans Breakfast and Program begins at 8:30 a.m. in Jobe Hall Auditorium. A reunion for the classes of 1950-1969 begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Kossman Suite in the Jobe Hall. Ms. Rooks shared Homecoming week events for students. On Monday, November 6, the Student Government Association hosts a movie night on the Quadrangle beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Student Government Association arranged Goat Yoga on the Quadrangle for Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. The lip sync competition is Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. in Walter Sillers Coliseum. The basketball court opening is scheduled for Thursday at 6:30 p.m. behind Foundation Hall. The Homecoming pep rally is at 6:00 p.m. at Parker Field-McCool Stadium followed by a concert in Statesmen Park featuring Cotton Row and DJ Epic. The National Pan-Hellenic Council hosts the annual StompFest at 7:30 p.m. on Friday in the BPAC. The Delta State University Homecoming Parade is Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Tailgating begins in Statesmen Park Saturday morning, and the kickoff between Delta State and Mississippi College is at 2:00 p.m.

**Hiring request .....Dr. Bingham**

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

**Academic Affairs requests**

Dr. Bingham requested to hire the Assistant Registrar and Director of Destination Graduation Program. The

Assistant Registrar position is a replacement position, and the new hire would begin in January 2024. Also, Student Success Center wants to create a new position, Director of Destination Graduation Program, to implement the Destination Graduation program, and the position would be grant funded.

**Town Hall Meetings ..... Dr. Ennis**

The second installment in Dr. Ennis’s Town Hall meetings is tomorrow, Tuesday, October 24. This installment focuses on how faculty and staff can help the Office of Admissions to encourage better enrollment and support recruiters. Cabinet members suggested additional topics for the Town Hall meeting including: next steps of the Ad Hoc Committee on Budget Sustainability and university fundraising efforts.

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

Mr. Wakefield provided Cabinet members with the budget versus actual report for the first quarter of the fiscal year. Mr. Wakefield asked Cabinet members to review the report and to follow up with him on any questions. At this time, the university’s revenues are in line with projections. The university’s expenditures are high due to departments utilizing purchase orders to encumber their funds.

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

Dr. Lovin shared an update on recruitment efforts. The Office of Admissions will host 15 personal tours on campus this week and a tour for Riverside High School. The Office of Admissions staff are attending 22 college fairs and two high school visits this week.

**Institutional Effectiveness and Planning ..... Dr. Ennis**

The feedback on the university’s reaffirmation packet is forthcoming. Dr. Ennis and other university representatives will attend the SACSCOC Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL in December. During their time at the meeting, university representatives will conference with Delta State’s SACSCOC liaison on Delta State’s focus report due in February.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Town Hall Meeting, October 24, 3:00 p.m., Jobe Hall Auditorium
- Pre-Registration Week, October 30 – November 3
- Pablo Cruise, November 2, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Homecoming Week, November 6-10

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, November 6, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.