

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: August 7, 2023

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

Members not in attendance: Mr. Mike Kinnison, Mr. Rick Munroe, and Mr. Larry Wakefield

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
Dr. Christy Riddle, Chief Marketing Officer
Dr. Lori Spencer, Chief of Staff, University Advancement and External Relations

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on August 7, 2023. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Ennis presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Novobilski and seconded by Dr. Lovin, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on August 1, 2023.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events from last week. Dr. Ennis met with several local and State government officials last week including Cleveland Mayor Billy Nowell, State Senator Sarita Simmons, Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons, and State Representative Robert Sanders. Dr. Ennis welcomed Cleveland and West Bolivar County School Districts teachers to campus for their annual convocation. Dr. Ennis and Mr. Munroe traveled to Greenville, MS to meet with a potential donor. Dr. Ennis welcomed the football team and residence hall staff on their return to campus.
- In the absence of Mr. Kinnison, Ms. George gave an update on Athletics. Student athletes from the football team, soccer teams, and cross-country teams have reported to campus for the fall semester. On Monday, August 14, the Athletics Department hosts a Back to School Assembly for all student-athletes to prepare them for the upcoming academic year.
- In the absence of Mr. Wakefield, Dr. Craft shared an update on Facilities projects. The Mississippi Department of Transportation sidewalk project is underway. Delta State pays for 20% of the project. The restorations to Foundation Hall are complete. The building's third floor was repainted, and the outside was pressure-washed. Contractors have made great progress on temporarily fixing roofs around campus. The Center for Community and Economic Development's permanent roof is being installed this week. New concrete will be poured along Fifth Avenue once the water leak is fixed. The parking lot of Court of Governors is to be fixed due to a tree root causing damage. On August 15, the university will receive a full report from the insurance company on the damage caused by the hail

storm in June. To help mitigate price negotiations between the university and the insurance company, a consulting firm will be involved. An air quality survey will be conducted on Broom Hall. Dr. Craft reminded Cabinet members to take pictures of any water damage inside their respective buildings before moving furniture. The meeting with the Bureau of Building to discuss plans for the legislative funding for the Sillers Coliseum project is scheduled for August 23.

- Ms. Rooks gave an update on SGA activities. The SGA Cabinet meets tomorrow for their annual retreat.
- Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. Dr. Ennis invited Ms. Maria Ramiz, Delta State’s June Employee of the Month, to lunch. Her supervisor and vice president will attend, as well. In preparation for America’s 250th birthday, Dr. Ennis will meet with Ms. Emily Havens of GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi and Dr. Bob Santelli of GRAMMY Museum at LA Live to discuss celebration plans. The final Takin’ Care of Business Day, Student Move-In Day, and the beginning of Okratation will take place on Wednesday. Also on Wednesday, Dr. Ennis travels to Mississippi Valley State University to visit with Dr. Jerryl Briggs. Dr. Ennis welcomes students to New Student Okratation on Thursday morning. The Cleveland Music Foundation Board of Directors meets for their quarterly meeting on Thursday. Dr. Ennis gives his State of the University address on Thursday during Delta State’s annual Convocation with faculty and staff. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce hosts “Greet and Green” to welcome back faculty and staff on Thursday evening. GRAMMY Museum Mississippi will host an event on Thursday evening for the opening of the new “Highway 61: Traveling America’s Music Highway” exhibit. Dr. and Mrs. Ennis and the Administrative Staff Council will host on Friday the luncheon for Faculty and Staff.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Academic Freedom policy (new – first reading).....Dr. Novobilski

On recommendation of Academic Council and the Faculty Senate, Dr. Novobilski brought the new Academic Freedom policy to Cabinet for a first reading. This policy is based on the most current iteration of the American Association of University Professors 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure. Delta State supports open and respectful dialogue, encouraging diverse perspectives and fostering an inclusive intellectual environment. Delta State rejects the idea of compelling any of its community members to adopt or express any belief that violates the individual’s personal and legally protected freedom and/or beliefs. Although academic freedom provides latitude in the classroom and research, it does not justify discrimination, harassment, or the promotion of speech with the sole and deliberate intention of being hurtful. The creation of the Academic Freedom policy was driven by the university’s SACSCOC review. Dr. Novobilski asked Cabinet members to submit any changes or questions to Dr. Josie Welsh, Dr. Chris Jurgenson, and himself.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Jurgenson to approve the Academic Freedom policy for a first reading and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion was approved.

Social Media policy (new – final reading).....Mr. Munroe

In July 2022, Mr. Munroe brought a Social Media policy for review. It was approved for a first reading; however, the policy was discarded. The policy presented today was provided by the Special Assistant

Attorney General assigned to IHL universities. This policy defines the rules and procedures for the use of Official University Social Media Accounts to ensure both legal and policy compliance. All Official University Social Media Accounts must be registered with the University's Office of Communications and Marketing. Official DSU social media accounts should be registered to a shared or general email address accessible by a primary and secondary administrator to ensure consistent management. At least one of the administrators should be a permanent, full-time university employee. Official accounts are expected to maintain DSU's brand identity, integrity, and reputation by maintaining an appropriate voice, sharing, and liking appropriate content, and serving as a productive, supportive element of the university's social media community. Accounts must comply with the Delta State University Identity Standards Guide, as well as state and federal law, including intellectual property and copyright laws, terms of social media providers, and University policies. Further, any use of official university logos or trademarks on Official University Social Media Accounts must have prior approval. Official university accounts must follow the respective terms of service for social media platforms, applicable state and federal laws, and NCAA regulations. Cabinet members discussed a few best practices for administering official social media accounts including: contacting Communications and Marketing for crisis or emergency communication needs; speaking with the media; and, knowing the university cannot repress faculty or staff from speaking to the media. All requested changes made by Cabinet members at the last meeting were made to the policy presented today. Cabinet members requested an addition to the definition of social media to include the messaging services of each social media platform. Additionally, Cabinet members discussed the Media Release for Parent and Minor. Cabinet members requested the following edits: remove minor from the first signature line and remove the signature of minor.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the Social Media policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Novobilski. The motion was approved.

Discussion

Budget Update Mr. Wakefield

In the absence of Mr. Wakefield, Dr. Craft provided an update on the budget. The FY24 budgets have been disseminated and are available for viewing in Argos. If any employee needs training for Argos, it is available upon request. A new Argos report for viewing salaries is available to directors.

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

Dr. Lovin provided an update on recruitment and enrollment. The enrollment reports state enrollment for the fall is 110 students above enrollment this time last year. All departments involved in the class cancellation process met last week. Class cancellation is scheduled for Wednesday, August 9 at 12:00 a.m. Students with a balance of \$500 or more without a payment plan in place will be removed from classes. Currently, 112 students are on the class cancellation list. These students are being contacted in multiple ways including emails, text messages, and phone calls. No first-time freshmen or first-time transfer students are on the list for class cancellation. Mr. Munroe has discussed providing the university \$10,000 to help students with the class cancellation process.

Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Dr. Novobilski

The SACSCOC reaffirmation packet is due in one month and one day. Dr. Novobilski and Dr. Welsh provided a status update to Dr. Ennis this morning. A copy editor may be utilized to ensure the reaffirmation packet has a seamless voice throughout the document. Dr. Ennis and Dr. Novobilski urged Cabinet members to provide any last-minute documents or information to Dr. Welsh promptly. Academic Affairs is working with deans and chairs to secure the curriculum vitae of 100 faculty members. To adequately review each section of the reaffirmation packet, Dr. Novobilski requested Cabinet members to block off six to eight hours on their calendars the week of August 21 for review and edits.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- 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
- Leflore County Alumni meeting, August 22, 6:00 p.m., Museum of the MS Delta

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, August 14, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

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