

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: April 21, 2025

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, Dr. Curtis Coleman (by phone), Dr. Edwin Craft, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Ms. Hayden Kirkhart, Dr. Suzette Matthews, and Ms. Marilyn Read (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Mr. Peter Dean

Guests: Mr. Mikhail Collins, University Accounting
Ms. Tijuana Harris, Human Resources
Chief Michael Peeler, University Police Department

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on April 21, 2025. 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 April 7, 2025.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Lovin introduced Chief Michael Peeler. Chief Peeler is the new Chief of Police for the University Police Department.
- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events of the last week. Dr. Ennis attended the Tourism Summit in Greenwood, the Mississippi Economic Council Annual Meeting, and the IHL Board Meeting. The BPAC 2024-25 season concluded with a performance by ZZ Top. BPAC staff are working on creating the 2025-26 season now.
- Dr. Craft gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Dr. Craft and Facilities Management staff will begin crafting a campus master plan soon. The water tower project will be finished by the time students return. Facilities Management staff are meeting with a design team to discuss Foundation Hall to help with painting and flooring design. The construction documents for Walter Sillers Coliseum are complete, and the project will go out for bid soon.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The golf team completed their season last week, and they placed third in the Gulf South Conference. The men's and women's tennis teams have their last regular season match this week against Auburn University-Montgomery. The women's tennis team continues to the Gulf South Conference tournament this weekend. Spring football practice ended last week. Softball and baseball are in the last week of the regular season. The softball team competes against Henderson State University tomorrow, and the baseball team competes against Harding University. Both teams compete against Mississippi College this weekend. The baseball team qualified for the Gulf

South Conference tournament, and they begin competition at the beginning of May. The Green and White Awards are on Monday, April 28 in the BPAC.

- Ms. Kirkhart gave an update on the Student Government Association. The rescheduled Big Green Event is on Saturday. Appointed positions for Student Government Association are this week. The Student Government Association Inauguration is Tuesday, April 29 at 6:00 p.m. in Jobe. All Cabinet members are invited to attend. Student Government presidents of Mississippi public institutions are going to meet at individual campuses each month for 2025-26. Delta State will host the Student Government presidents in March 2026.
- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the week. The Department of Education DEI task force met this morning, and most items going forward will be handled at the vice president level. Dr. Ennis and Dr. Griffin are continuing with their listening sessions with individual academic departments. Dr. Ennis will host a dinner for members of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity this week. The Alumni Association Board of Directors meets on Friday. The Retirement and Service Awards Ceremony is Friday at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Ennis departs on Saturday for the 2025 Rural Summit in Alaska.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Summer Work Schedule Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft invited Ms. Harris and Mr. Collins to Cabinet to present a potentially flexible summer schedule. The flexible work arrangements during the summer months help to support employee work-life balance, enhance productivity, and ensure operational support for students and essential services. Delta State did not utilize a four-day work week schedule last summer to allow the University to be open and available for recruitment purposes. Cabinet members were made aware of the staff members’ desire to have a summer schedule again.

Members of the Administrative Staff Council created guidelines for a flexible summer schedule that addressed: accessibility and building hours, support for employees with childcare needs, morale and employee engagement, and operational considerations. With assistance from the vice presidents, essential offices providing services critical to the University’s operations and student support were identified. The essential offices were the Office of Admissions, Office of Financial Aid, Student Business Services, the Registrar’s Office, Police Department, and Office of Information Technology, and these offices must remain open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The options for a flexible summer schedule include:

- Four 10-hour workdays:
 - Employees may opt to work four 10-hour days per week (Monday to Thursday), totaling 40 hours per week. Fridays will be designated as non-working days unless otherwise scheduled for essential office coverage.
- Four and a half days of work week:
 - Employees may work four full days and a half day (either Friday morning or afternoon) totaling 40 hours per week. This schedule allows for flexibility in managing personal and professional commitments. Employees would work from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with a one

hour lunch Monday through Thursday, and they would work four hours on Friday.

- Flexible schedule with Group A and Group B coverage:
 - Staff within each department ay be organized into Group A and Group B to ensure essential offices are covered from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The department supervisor will coordinate the schedule with each staff with flexible work hours, staggered start times, or telecommuting options to maintain coverage.

To implement the flexible work schedule for summer, supervisors will work with their teams to determine appropriate schedules, and coverage plans based on operational needs and employee preferences. All employees must submit their proposed summer flex hour schedule to their supervisors for approval no later than May 2. Human Resources will provide support and guidance to supervisors and employees regarding implementation and compliance.

Cabinet members discussed the proposal at length, and additional information was needed to address questions and concerns.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the summer work schedule proposal and seconded by Dr. Matthews.

The summer work schedule will be revisited at the next Cabinet meeting.

2026-27 Academic Calendar..... Dr. Griffin

On behalf of the Academic Council, Dr. Griffin presented the 2026-27 Academic Calendar for review and approval. Cabinet members discussed removing their intersession from the academic calendar as it has not been offered for a few years. Independent study with a professor occurs more often than an intersession course being offered. Cabinet members requested the graduate and undergraduate catalogs be updated when changes are made to the academic calendar.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the 2026-27 Academic Calendar and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion was approved unanimously.

Naming Opportunities Dr. Matthews

Dr. Matthews shared two naming opportunities with Cabinet members. One naming opportunity was previously approved by the Executive Committee a few years ago. A portion of Statesmen Boulevard will be named in honor of Mr. Charlie McGuffee of Delta Regional Foundation and his unwavering support to Delta State University. The second naming opportunity is for the doors on the Lena Roberts Sillers Chapel in honor of Dr. James Robinson and his support on purchasing the new doors.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Matthews to reaffirm the naming of a portion of Statesmen Boulevard in honor of Mr. Charlie McGuffee and the doors to Lena Roberts Sillers Chapel in honor of Dr. James Robinson and seconded by Dr. Griffin. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion

Scholarship Opportunities Dr. Matthews

Dr. Matthews shared with Cabinet members a scholarship opportunity Delta State will offer to Mississippi residents. The scholarship provides free tuition if the student is a Pell Grant-eligible, a first-time freshman entering Fall 2025. The scholarship is renewable for eight semesters provided the student maintains Pell-

eligibility and demonstrates progress towards a degree.

Dr. Matthews shared two promotional advertisements for the scholarship opportunity.

Enrollment Update Dr. Coleman

Dr. Coleman gave an update on enrollment. Applications and admitted students for Fall 2025 are up 5% from this time last year. Readmitted students' applications are growing, and Dr. Coleman hopes to have one hundred readmitted students enrolled for Fall 2025. The Office of Admissions staff will begin working on their quarter two engagements this week. Staff place cold calls, texts, and emails to students who are missing documents for their admission to the University or have not finished their application. Dr. Coleman is working with Dr. Griffin and her staff on admission timelines for graduate students; this timeline needs to decrease to be competitive with other graduate programs. The Office of Admissions is actively working with Dr. Lovin on Takin' Care of Business Days to have great experiences for incoming students.

Budget Update Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft announced the FY26 budget worksheets have been locked, and University Accounting staff are reviewing them. Dr. Craft will meet with each direct report of the President to inform them of the status of their budget and any requests made. Currently, Dr. Craft is planning for the annual operating budget to be flat.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- ZZ Top, April 10, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- DSU Foundation Board of Directors Meeting, April 11
- Go Green Weekend, April 11-12
- Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, April 11, 7:00 p.m., Jobe Auditorium
- Good Friday, April 18
- Bolivar County Alumni Chapter Seafood Boil, May 1
- Greater Jackson Area Alumni Happy Hour, May 15
- Starkville/Golden Triangle Area Alumni Happy Hour, May 22
- Mississippi on the Mall (Washington, D.C.), May 31
- Leflore County Alumni Happy Hour, June 5
- Hattiesburg Alumni Happy Hour, June 11
- Gulf Coast Alumni Happy Hour, June 12
- Desoto County Alumni Happy Hour, June 19
- Night of Champions, August 8
- Pig Pickin' Weekend, September 5-6
- Foundation Scholarship Reception, October 16
- Foundation Board of Directors Meeting, October 17
- DSU 40 Under 40, October 17
- Delta State Homecoming, October 18

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, April 7, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.