

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: April 6, 2026

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

Members not in attendance: Ms. Collins Phelps

Guests: Chief Michael Peeler, Chair-Elect, Administrative Staff Council

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on April 6, 2026. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Ennis presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Matthews and seconded by Dr. Lovin, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on March 23, 2026.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Matthews announced Centennial Under the Stars is on April 11. Faculty and staff can purchase tickets for a discounted price of \$30. The Delta State University Alumni Association Board of Directors and the Delta State University Foundation Board of Directors meet on Friday.
- Dr. Lovin shared with Cabinet members the successful trip of the Delta State Vocal Collective to New York City to perform at Lincoln Center. He thanked Dr. Matthews and her team for their efforts in raising the funds for the students to attend and participate. The Delta State Vocal Collective will reprise their performance on May 3 in the Bologna Performing Arts Center.
- Dr. Craft shared updates on campus projects. The Walter Sillers Coliseum project has commenced. Repairs are underway to the walls at the Bologna Performing Arts Center, and the newly installed restrooms remain offline. Some of the clay pipes have collapsed, and a new cast was installed to repair them. Construction has commenced on the E-sports room. Chick-fil-A is being removed as a concept within the Union, as Chick-fil-A is shuttering its small college-level sites. The temporary solution is Bird n' Brine. Limb removal from the ice storm is still ongoing. The HVAC project and roof repair project commence this summer.
- Dr. Coleman provided an overview of current enrollment data for the fall. Takin' Care of Business Days have virtual and in-person options. They will be held in different locations on campus throughout the summer months. The Office of Marketing has assisted the Office of Admissions in creating ads for campus tours, resulting in 400 visitors in March and 34 tour registrations thus far in April. Several recruitment events are scheduled across the state, including Biloxi, Ridgeland, and Southaven.

- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The University of West Florida is moving to Division I. With the loss of this school, the Gulf South Conference has three football-playing schools, thus commencing the sunseting of football in the Conference. Spring Hill College becomes a member of the Gulf South Conference in the 2027-28 season. Additionally, the Gulf South Conference’s Commissioner has resigned to take a position with another conference. The baseball team hosts the University of Arkansas at Monticello tomorrow. The baseball and softball teams travel to Trevecca Nazarene University for a series this weekend. The tennis teams compete against Jackson State University tomorrow and the University of Montevallo later this week. The soccer teams have begun playing exhibition games to prepare for the fall season. Lastly, the football team continues spring training and hosts its Spring Scrimmage on Saturday at 9:00 a.m.
- Ms. Kirkhart shared with Cabinet members that the new SGA President is Evelyn Greer. Appointed position interviews begin this week. The State of the SGA is on April 28 in the Baioni Conference Center, and the SGA Inauguration is on April 30.
- Dr. Ennis provided an overview of the legislative session. Delta State’s four line items were funded; however, the Delta Center for Culture and Learning and Workforce and K-12 Teacher Initiative were not funded at the requested amounts. Appropriations increased by 3.2% to cover increases in insurance and PERS. All faculty will receive a \$2,000 raise from appropriated funds. The University will personally fund raises for staff members. Repair and renovation projects for the IHL system received \$33.5 million in appropriations, and this will be distributed among the universities. Lastly, the university's bond projects were funded at \$6.8 million.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUINESS

Action

Staff Emeritus.....Ms. Phelps

In the absence of Ms. Phelps, Chief Peeler shared the name of one staff member who has been recommended for Emeritus status by the Administrative Staff Council. The staff member was unanimously approved for Staff Emeritus status by the Administrative Staff Council Executive Committee and their supervisor and vice president.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the Staff Emeritus recommendation and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Cabinet Advance Dates Dr. Ennis

Dr. Ennis informed Cabinet members the Cabinet Advance topic will be a scholarship reset to include Foundation scholarships, University scholarships, academic scholarships, University discounts, and stacking. The potential dates for Cabinet Advance are May 18, May 19, June 2, June 3, and June 8. Cabinet members preferred the dates in May. Ms. Cole will finalize the date this week and provide Cabinet

members with final details.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- COEAH Spring Honors Recognition Program, April 7, 3:00 p.m., Jacob Conference Center
- Kansas, April 9, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Delta State Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting, April 10, 10:00 a.m.
- Delta State Foundation Board of Directors Meeting, April 10, 10:00 a.m., Multipurpose Room in Young-Mauldin Cafeteria
- Centennial Under the Stars, April 11, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field-McCool Stadium

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, May 4, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

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