

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: February 10, 2025

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, Ms. Arlene Cash, Dr. Edwin Craft, Dr. Nora Gough-Davis (by phone), Dr. Leslie Griffin, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Suzette Matthews, and Ms. Marilyn Read (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: None

Guests: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on February 10, 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. Matthews, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on January 27, 2025.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events of the last week. Dr. Ennis continues to travel to Jackson each week to meet with legislators. The first round of bill reductions occurred last week; however, several bills progressed that could affect higher education. Dr. Ennis and Dr. Craft are participating in an interview with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems tomorrow. During this interview, Dr. Ennis and Dr. Craft will share how a state appropriations funding formula would benefit Delta State. Dr. Ennis and Dr. Griffin visited the Mississippi School for Math and Science to understand the coordination of offering a high school on a college campus. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met for their monthly meeting. BPAC hosted DRUMLine: Live last week, and 949 tickets were sold.
- Dr. Craft gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The engineering firm, insurance company, and architect for the roof repair and renovations met again, and Delta State will receive an additional \$1.6 million for repairs on roofs throughout campus. The ARPA-funded storm and wastewater management project is ongoing, and they are currently digging in certain places around campus. Dr. Craft announced dumpsters will be installed outside of residence halls to assist with trash pickup. A brick enclosure will be put around them. Lastly, an audit on the university's contracts was completed. A pre-checklist and post-checklist will be added to our process when signing a new contract. To help with this additional step with contracts, an open position was revised to oversee the contracts process.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The basketball season has three weeks remaining, and the men's and women's teams are in a good position for advancing to the conference tournament. Both teams travel to Valdosta State University and University of West Florida this week. The swimming and diving teams host the NSISC Championship next week. The tennis team begins their season next week. The men's golf team opens in Texas next Monday. The baseball team postponed their Tuesday game

due to the weather, and they host Lee University this weekend. The softball team may reschedule their games for Wednesday due to weather, and they host Lee University this weekend.

- Ms. Kirkhart gave an update on the Student Government Association. Several interest meetings for SGA elected and appointed positions have occurred over the last two weeks. SGA continues to host and partner with other groups to bring events to students for Black History Month. Student Legislative Day is Wednesday.
- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the week. The Director of Public Safety Interviews begin this week on Thursday, and they continue Monday, February 17. The Office of Admissions is hosting a junior day on Friday called Fall in Love with the Statesmen. 360 students have signed up for the event.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Bandwidth Utilization policy, Toll Fraud policy, & Tuition and Fees policy (revised – final readings) Dr. Craft

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Craft brought the revised Bandwidth Utilization policy, the revised Toll Fraud policy, and the revised Tuition and Fees policy to Cabinet for a final reading and review.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to discuss and vote on the policies in bulk and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

All policies were updated to represent current practice. The Office of Information Technology staff with the approval of the Chief Information Officer can reduce bandwidth in select areas as a need arises and the University operations can be maintained. The Toll Fraud policy provides information about illegally accessing long distance phone services. Unauthorized use of long distance services, with the intent of avoiding responsibility for charges, is a criminal offense. The Tuition and Fees policy had minor grammatical edits made, and Perkins Loan was removed from the priority order list refunds are made.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the revised policies for a final reading and seconded by Ms. Read. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Enrollment and CollegeVine UpdateMs. Cash

Ms. Cash provided Cabinet members with an update on the installation and use of Slate. The crossover to Slate is going well, and the Office of Admissions staff is doing manual work right now to prevent additional hiccups. The training is going well, and the system should be fully functional by the end of March.

Ms. Cash shared with Cabinet members the goals and objectives for CollegeVine AI use at Delta State. The largest goal for CollegeVine AI use is to increase prospect engagement through timely and personalized interactions. CollegeVine AI can enhance lead nurturing, improve conversion rates, streamline communication, personalize student support, optimize staff efficiency, boost admit to commit and commit to enroll yield, expand outreach efforts, encourage data driven decision making, and seamless integration

to our current systems. The CollegeVine AI system will be installed in phases to be completed by the middle of August.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Delta State Student Luncheon with Legislators, February 12, 11:30 a.m., State Capitol
- Fall in Love with the Statesmen – High School Junior Day, February 14, 9:00 a.m.
- Dirty Dancing in Concert, February 20, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, February 24, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.