

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT'S CABINET
Minutes

Meeting date: February 9, 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, Dr. Suzette Matthews, and Ms. Holly Senter (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: None

Guests: Mr. Gregory Braggs and Ms. Kelli Williams

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on February 9, 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 December 1, 2025.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Matthews invited and introduced the new Director of Marketing, Ms. Kelli Williams. Additionally, she invited Mr. Gregory Braggs to showcase the renovation of the Delta State website's homepage. Lastly, Dr. Matthews announced the dates of Pig Pickin' and Homecoming. Pig Pickin' will be Saturday, September 5 and Homecoming will be Saturday, October 24.
- Dr. Craft gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The kickoff meeting for the Walter Sillers Coliseum project is the first week of March. After the conclusion of this meeting, Dr. Craft can determine the availability of the Coliseum for spring commencement. The upcoming HVAC project will cause disruptions to employees. Some employees will need to be temporarily relocated or work from home. Dr. Craft and Facilities Management staff will host a meeting about the project soon, and building managers will be invited to assist in the planning. The project will consist of several campus buildings, and it will be completed in nine months. The roofing project will be sent out for bids soon. The project will be completed in four phases based on the type of roof: flat, shingled, metal, and terracotta tiles. Dr. Craft announced the budgets were sent out to the vice presidents for review. Additional conversations about the budget will occur as State appropriations are finalized.
- Dr. Coleman provided an overview of spring enrollment and current data for fall enrollment. The enrollment for spring increased by 6.3% with growth in transfer, first-time freshmen, returning undergraduate and graduate students. Applications, admissions, and acceptances for Fall 2026 have surpassed the figures of Fall 2025 at this same time last year.

- Dr. Griffin provided an overview of current Academic Affairs initiatives. Academic Affairs is building the architecture for career ready, next step pathways and programs. Their goal is to help increase enrollment by what students need and want for a career. Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College was on campus today to see how we can align several of our programs to create a pathway for their students to Delta State.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The Athletics staff along with Facilities Management are working to repair all outside facilities after the snowstorm. Several games and matches The first home game is tomorrow against Southern Arkansas University. The basketball teams travel to Union University tomorrow, and they host Valdosta State University Thursday and University of West Florida on Saturday. The tennis teams travel to Texas this week for matches beginning on Thursday and continue through Sunday. Mr. David Dean was hired as the new head coach of the football team. A press conference welcoming him as the new head coach will be Thursday at 11:00 a.m. in the Simmons Room.
- Mr. Dean shared that Faculty Senate had their first meeting of the semester last week. He is working with Dr. Griffin on ways to recognize the achievements of faculty members. Several faculty members have contacted him regarding course stacking.
- Ms. Senter shared that she received good feedback from the Town Hall meeting last week. She formally requested to change the layout of Staff Development Day to a Staff Development week or developmental activities on different days. She will provide a proposal to Cabinet in the coming weeks.
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- Ms. Kirkhart provided an update on SGA activities. An interest meeting for SGA was held, and Ms. Kirkhart stated it was greatly attended. Students are invited to attend a birthday celebration in honor of former Lady Statesmen Lusia Harris. Activities begin at 6:00 p.m. in Jobe Hall with the viewing of “The Queen of Basketball” followed by snacks and basketball in Wyatt Gym. Student Legislative Day at the State Capitol is Wednesday. Sixty students are planning to attend the event. SGA is encouraging students and their organizations to attend the basketball games on Thursday. The International Student Association is assisting with a Caribbean Carnival next week. Lastly, SGA is hosting a Love Does not Hurt event on Valentine’s Day in the Nowell Union.
- Dr. Ennis provided a recap on the NCHEMS visit from last week. NCHEMS is assisting IHL in the development of a new funding formula. Upon the adoption of a new funding formula, it will require a multi-year roll out process. Dr. Ennis attended the Delta Council Board of Directors meeting; a strategic transportation planning meeting hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and will attend the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet this evening. Lastly, Dr. Ennis announced special called Cabinet meetings to approve Cabinet minutes could occur in the future if Cabinet is not set to meet in person for several weeks.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

None

Discussion

None

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Student Legislative Lunch, February 11, State Capitol
- Blue Oyster Cult, February 19, 7:30 p.m., Bologna Performing Arts Center
- Dwight Yoakam, March 5, 7:30 p.m., Bologna Performing Arts Center
- Spring Break, March 9-13

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, February 23, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

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