

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: January 27, 2025

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, Ms. Arlene Cash, Dr. Edwin Craft, Dr. Nora Gough-Davis, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Mr. Mike Kinnison, and Dr. Suzette Matthews (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 January 27, 2025. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Ennis presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Ms. Cash and seconded by Dr. Lovin, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on January 13, 2025.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events of the last week. Dr. Ennis visited with State legislators, and he attended the NCAA Convention. The IHL Board of Trustees met for their monthly meeting. University Advancement held a naming ceremony for the Ferguson State Room in the H. L. Nowell Union.
- Dr. Craft gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The original Robert E. Smith School of Nursing building has been gutted, and it is scheduled to be completed in June with a ribbon cutting ceremony in July. The ADA project for the BPAC is progressing, and brick will be added to the exterior elevator addition soon. The project will be completed in July with a ribbon cutting ceremony in August. The plans for the second phase of renovations to the Walter Sillers Coliseum will be finalized this week. Foundation Hall is set to receive some updates including new flooring and painting upgrades. A campus-wide HVAC project will begin soon. The boiler for Wright Art Building quit working, and a new one was ordered. Ewing Hall is having HVAC issues, as well, and new piping will be installed. A new chiller is being installed at Chadwick-Dickson Hall. The architects and insurance representatives will be on campus in February to reassess the roof damage.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. Mr. Kinnison shared with Cabinet members an update on legislation passed at the NCAA Convention including automatic qualifiers for football and a 30% rule for red-shirt qualification in first year play eligibility. The baseball team hosted a fundraising dinner, First Pitch dinner. Both basketball teams compete against Auburn University-Montgomery and University of Montevallo this week. The swimming and diving teams host Ouachita Baptist University this weekend. The baseball team opens their season in Florida this weekend.
- Ms. Kirkhart gave an update on the Student Government Association. A new Director of Spirit and Traditions has been appointed, Ms. Layan Asmar. Edits are being made to the Student Government

constitution, and other edits are being made in Student Senate representatives due to the changes in the academy. Several events are on going and upcoming including interest meetings for Student Government Association, Black History Month events, Student Legislative Day on February 12, and an organization night at the basketball games next Thursday.

- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the week. Dr. and Mrs. Ennis are hosting a reception for the Delta State cheerleaders tonight at their home. Dr. Ennis plans to tour the Mississippi School for Math and Science later in the week.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Lease of Space by Outside Organization Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft was approached by Flatlanders Printing Company about renting available space at Delta State. An open space available to meet their needs is the temporary cafeteria in Scott Hall. If Cabinet members approve of the lease of space, the request would go to IHL for final approval. Cabinet members expressed some concerns: there is no heat in Scott Hall, air conditioning is faulty, and potential fumes leaking into other parts of the building. Some potential positives of the lease approval are the potential for student internships or jobs and student discounts. Dr. Craft addressed the concern for air conditioning, and he stated two rooftop units are being added to Scott Hall.

Cabinet members did not vote on the lease of space by an outside organization.

Cassity Hall Garage Removal Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft shared with Cabinet members the need to remove Cassity Hall Garage due to the roof on the garage being rotten. The cost to replace the roof is \$30,000. When demolishing the garage, the bricks will be saved to use throughout campus, as needed.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to remove Cassity Hall Garage and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion was approved.

Discussion

Hiring Requests Cabinet Members

Hiring requests will no longer be brought to Cabinet for review prior to approval being granted. Upon the approval of the vice president, all hiring requests will be routed to Dr. Craft to determine budget availability. After Dr. Craft signs off on the hiring request, Dr. Ennis will review for his approval.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the new hiring request protocol and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion was approved.

Dr. Ennis provided an update on all positions approved for hiring since the last Cabinet meeting.

Procurement Card Encumbrances Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft announced budgets will not close as in years past; however, departments need to curb spending.

Budget managers for individual departments should review their encumbrances and other planned spending to see how they can initiate savings. Departments are required to present a detailed review of their remaining budget and identify savings equivalent to 50% of non-salary funds. Dr. Craft wants to end the fiscal year with approximately \$3.5 million in savings.

Budget for FY26 Preparations Dr. Craft
Dr. Craft provided Cabinet members with an update on the FY26 budget process. The university will continue to adhere to zero-based budgeting, and this year a focus will be identifying areas that need to be included that were missed in FY25.

Enrollment UpdateMs. Cash
Ms. Cash provided Cabinet members with an update on enrollment for Fall 2025. Currently, 1,513 first-year students have submitted applications, and 588 students have been admitted. 141 transfer student applications have been submitted, and twenty-eight students have been admitted. 559 graduate students have applied, and twelve have been admitted. The data migration for Slate occurs tomorrow.

Cabinet members had a lengthy discussion about the purge process. At the time of the Cabinet meeting, 180 plus names were on the list. Students with a balance of less than \$1,000 will be removed from the list. Cabinet members requested better communication about this process and time to meet and discuss the process outside of Cabinet.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Drumline Live, February 4, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Delta State Student Luncheon with Legislators, February 12, 11:30 a.m., State Capitol
- Dirty Dancing in Concert, February 20, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, February 10, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.