

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: March 24, 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, Ms. Hayden Kirkhart, Dr. Suzette Matthews, and Ms. Marilyn Read (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

**Members not in attendance:** None

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on March 24, 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 Ms. Cash, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on February 24, 2025.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- Dr. Ennis announced Dr. Curtis Coleman accepted the position of Vice President for Enrollment, and he begins on May 1. Dr. Ennis expressed his gratitude to Ms. Cash for leadership during this interim time.
- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events of the last week. Dr. Ennis continued his external relations visits concerning recruitment. Dr. Matthews provided an update on University Advancement events.
- Dr. Craft gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The architect for the Ward Hall project was selected. The project will take 18 to 24 months to complete. The Sillers Coliseum project design will be finalized soon. The garage for Cassity Hall was demolished, and the bricks were saved for repairs around campus. The Court of Governors residence hall will be demolished during the summer.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The men's and women's basketball teams completed their seasons with the men advancing within the GSC Tournament to the semifinals. The swimming and diving season ended with several members competing at the National Championship in Indianapolis. The baseball team travels to Southern Arkansas University on Tuesday, and they host the University of Alabama-Huntsville this weekend. The softball team travels to Harding University on Tuesday, and they also host the University of Alabama-Huntsville this weekend. The golf team is at Southern Arkansas University today, and they have one more match before the GSC Tournament in Tunica. The women's tennis team hosts Henderson State University today, and they travel to Arkansas on Friday. Spring football practices begin today. The Athletics Hall of Fame is April 11. Mr. Kinnison provided an update on the GSC football situation.
- Ms. Kirkhart gave an update on the Student Government Association. The Big Green Event is Saturday, and Delta State students will provide services to twenty locations around Cleveland. Elections for the 2025-26 SGA Cabinet are next Monday and Tuesday. Ms. Kirkhart provided an overview of activities for

students at Go Green Weekend.

- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the week. The group charged with working on the Department of Education DEI removal meets this week.

## **CABINET TOPIC**

None

## **BUSINESS**

### **Action**

#### **Wayne Blansett Staff Development Day..... Ms. Read**

Ms. Read informed Cabinet members that the Administrative Staff Council has selected the dates of May 16 or May 23 for the Wayne Blansett Staff Development Day with the preferred date being May 16. Ms. Read requested approval to close all offices (if approved by the supervisor) so that staff members can attend. The Administrative Staff Council will ensure all staff members know their options are to: 1) participate in Staff Development Day, or 2) remain in the office.

**Motion:** Moved by Ms. Read to approve the date of the Wayne Blansett Staff Development Day and for offices to close and seconded by Dr. Craft. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Holiday Schedule 2025-26..... Dr. Craft**

On behalf of Human Resources, Dr. Craft brought the holiday schedule for 2025-26 to Cabinet for review and approval. The holiday schedule includes Independence Day, Labor Day, two days for Thanksgiving, eight days for winter holidays, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Good Friday, and Memorial Day.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the holiday schedule for 2025-26 and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Changes to Existing Purchase Orders policy, Conflict of Interest policy, Departmental Transfer of Equipment policy, Equipment Classification policy, University Investment policy, Purchasing Authority policy, and Rush Orders policy (revised – final reading)..... Dr. Craft**

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Craft to discuss the Changes to Existing Purchase Orders policy, Conflict of Interest policy, Departmental Transfer of Equipment policy, Equipment Classification policy, University Investment policy, Purchasing Authority policy, and Rush Orders policy in bulk and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Craft brought the Changes to Existing Purchase Orders policy, Conflict of Interest policy, Departmental Transfer of Equipment policy, Equipment Classification policy, University Investment policy, Purchasing Authority policy, and Rush Orders policy to Cabinet for a final reading. All policies were revised to coincide with current practices, and minor grammatical and stylistic changes were made.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the Changes to Existing Purchase Orders policy, Conflict of Interest policy, Departmental Transfer of Equipment policy, Equipment Classification policy, University Investment policy, Purchasing Authority policy, and Rush Orders policy for final readings and seconded by Dr. Lovin.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Protective Administrative Withdrawal and Readmission policy, Blood Procurement policy, Designated Graduation Regalia for Student Organizations policy, Domestic Travel by Students policy, and Outdoor Amplified Sound policy (new and revised – final reading)..... Dr. Craft**

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Lovin to discuss the Protective Administrative Withdrawal and Readmission policy, Blood Procurement policy, Designated Graduation Regalia for Student Organizations policy, Domestic Travel by Students policy, and Outdoor Amplified Sound policy in bulk and seconded by Ms. Cash. The motion passed unanimously.

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Protective Administrative Withdrawal and Readmission policy, Blood Procurement policy, Designated Graduation Regalia for Student Organizations policy, Domestic Travel by Students policy, and Outdoor Amplified Sound policy to Cabinet for a final reading. All existing policies were revised to coincide with current practices and revise minor grammatical and stylistic concerns.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the Protective Administrative Withdrawal and Readmission policy, Blood Procurement policy, Designated Graduation Regalia for Student Organizations policy, Domestic Travel by Students policy, and Outdoor Amplified Sound policy for final readings and seconded by Dr. Craft. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Discussion**

**Legislative Update ..... Dr. Ennis**

Dr. Ennis provided Cabinet members with a legislative update. The current discussions surrounding the appropriations bill communicate a 1.3% decrease in appropriations funding. With a decrease in appropriations, IHL is concerned about deferred maintenance among the public universities. IHL has contracted with a company to audit deferred maintenance across the campuses of the public universities. Even with a decrease in appropriations, the public universities must show progress made towards deferred maintenance. The bill for the high school on Delta State's campus was taken for study, and no further action will be taken during this session. Additional items being watched by the university's lobbyists and legislative liaison are a request for additional funding for the Delta Center for Culture and Learning, funding for Hays Cooper's cafeteria, and a PERS increase.

**Enrollment Update ..... Ms. Cash**

Ms. Cash gave an update on enrollment and the Office of Admissions event schedule. Delta Days are April 13 and April 14, and Ms. Cash gave an overview of the two days. Fifty students and their parents will be in attendance. Cabinet members along with Dr. Ennis will host the parents for an event at the President's home. Lastly, the dates for Takin' Care of Business Days have been chosen.

**Budget Update ..... Dr. Matthews**

Dr. Craft and his staff met with budget managers about their budgets and the impending budget process. The budget sheets are disseminated and are due on April 1. Dr. Craft and his staff are working on the FY26 budget and working to close out the FY25 budget. Dr. Craft asked Cabinet members to work with their direct reports on any outstanding charges that could affect the bottom line of the FY25 budget close out.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Big Green Event, March 29
- Early Registration, March 31 – April 4
- F. E. Woodall 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Conference, April 4, 9:00 a.m., Jacob Conference Center
- DSU Foundation Board of Directors Meeting, April 11
- Go Green Weekend, April 11-12
- 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 3:00 p.m.