

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: November 18, 2025

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, Dr. Curtis Coleman, Dr. Edwin Craft, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Suzette Matthews, and Ms. Holly Senter (recorder – Ms. Jamie Claire Smith)

Members not in attendance: Ms. Hayden Kirkhart

Guests: Ms. Freddie Watt, Dr. Jon Westfall, and Mr. John Harris

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on November 18, 2025. The meeting convened at 3:00 p.m. with Dr. Ennis presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Dr. Suzette Matthews, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on November 3, 2025.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Matthews shared that her staff is close to finalizing the Foundation's giving website, and they are currently promoting end of year giving.
- Dr. Lovin gave an update on the Fall Fest that occurred over the weekend and shared the successes. He also shared upcoming events such as the International Thanksgiving Dinner and performances of the Delta State University Vocal Collective at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi in December. Additionally, the Vocal Collective will be taking up donations for their travel to New York to perform at the Lincoln Center in the spring. In the absence of Mr. Kirkhart, Dr. Lovin shared the success of the DSU Birthday Party at the skating rink and gave insight into the new demographic of students that attended. Lastly, he shared the food pantry will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday for faculty, staff, and community for the upcoming holiday.
- Dr. Craft gave an update on facility projects around campus. Cherry trees have been planted in front of Roberts-LaForge Library, sod has been laid around Wyatt Gym, updates occurring to Broom Hall windows and doors, and kitchen work in Foundation Hall. Dr. Craft also shared that government funding was released after the government shutdown. Lastly, he shared that budget sheets will be sent to all departments in December and will be due in January.
- Dr. Coleman gave an update on the increase of spring enrollment and stated we have 400 new students enrolled for Spring 2026. He also updated Cabinet on the new virtual tours we will be offering as well as updated social media recruitment videos that will be rolling out this month. Dr. Coleman stated that Fall 2026 applications are up by 17% and Fall 2026 admits are up by 20%. He shared the successful counselor event last week that was held on campus for local high school counselors and updated cabinet on the Coahoma Community College campus visit that will be happening later this week.

- Mr. Kinnison gave an athletic update stating that Delta State football along with men and women soccer wrapped up their 2025 season last week and coaches will begin recruiting for the upcoming season. Swim and Dive have their invitational meet at DSU Thursday through Sunday. Women's basketball will be competing at home this week, and men's basketball will be on the road.
- Dr. Jon Westfall shared that Delta State's faculty senate had their first joint meeting with University Faculty Senates Association of Mississippi last Tuesday. They are working to bring back a regular meeting with the UFSAM.
- Dr. Griffin gave an update on the successes they have had in curriculum work this semester along with developing pathways around workforce to provide students with from their working experience. She also shared that they are getting approval for the new BAS in Human Development degree from IHL this week. Spring pre-registration is currently at 50%, but they have plans to meet with First Year Seminar classes to increase spring registration.
- Ms. Senter shared that they will be wrapping up the Staff Council Food Drive tomorrow. She has also been working on the Staff Council bowling league which will held two Monday nights a month.
- Dr. Ennis gave an update on his trip to the AASCU Conference which covered professional development and legislative budget updates. These updates effect Pell eligibility and a cap on undergraduate student loans. He also shared an update from the GSC meeting which covered the five-year eligibility for college athletes. He also shared that any IHL agenda items for January need to be submitted to Claire by December 3rd. Lastly, he updated Cabinet that he will be attending the Claflin University Scholarship Gala to support DSU alum Duane Warmack.

CABINET TOPIC

Annual Basic Internal Control Assessment.....Ms. Freddie Watt

Internal Auditor Freddie Watt introduced the Annual Basic Internal Control Assessment and gave updates regarding campus auditing. This form will be performed annually and will be sent out by the President in January. The assessment should be completed collectively as a unit or department and not individually. The deadline for completion of the assessment will be in April to coincide with employee evaluations.

BUSINESS

Action

Requisition Procedures Policy (revised– final reading)..... Dr. Craft

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Craft brought the Requisition Procedures policy to Cabinet for review and approval. Purchase requisitions are required for all purchases of materials, equipment, or services acquired on behalf of Delta State University where a state issued P-card cannot be used.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to approve and discuss the policy and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

None

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Dolly Parton's Smoky Mountain Christmas Carol, November 21, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Thanksgiving Holidays for Faculty and Students, November 24-28
- Thanksgiving Holidays for Staff, November 27-28
- Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, December 2, 3:00 p.m., Leroy E. Morganti Atrium
- Faculty and Staff Christmas Reception, December 9, 5:00 p.m., President's Home
- Fall 2025 Commencement, December 12, 10:00 a.m., Walter Sillers Coliseum

NEXT MEETING:

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

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.