

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: November 3, 2025

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

Members not in attendance: None

Guests: Ms. Carley Brown and Ms. Katie Lusk

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on November 3, 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. Matthew, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on October 6, 2025.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Craft gave an update on Facilities Management projects. Dr. Craft and his staff are working with the contractor for the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing about the roof. The renovations to the BPAC have stalled, and the contractor is past the deadline for the project. The elevator is operational; however, the new restrooms are not open for use. Facilities Management is trimming trees around campus to lift the canopy and allow for more light to be seen. Additionally, there is concrete being removed and poured into several places on campus due to gas leaks.
- Dr. Coleman provided an update on recruitment efforts. He provided a recap on the Fall 2025 Open House; comprehensive reports for spring 2026 and fall 2026 enrollments; an overview of Encoura ACT name downloads featuring Mississippi and neighboring states data; data and progress with College Vine; showcased Campus Reel videos; a review of the agenda for the upcoming Counselor Luncheon; and an update on the Strategic Enrollment Plan committee meetings.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The men's and women's basketball teams are competing in exhibition games this week. The women's soccer team qualified for the Gulf South Conference Championship tournament, and they compete Saturday at the University of West Alabama. The football team competes at Valdosta State University on Saturday. The swimming and diving teams compete against Ouachita Baptist University and Henderson State University this weekend.
- Dr. Griffin announced that Academic Affairs is still pushing early registration, and they have incentives for faculty and students. Dr. Griffin continues her tour of Mississippi community colleges to discuss potential pathways.
- Ms. Senter announced the Administrative Staff Council's annual food drive begins soon. The BPAC spring 2026 season will be announced next week.

- Ms. Kirkhart and other student leaders are meeting today as part of the Student Leadership Council. She plans to request feedback from them on student participation at events. The students planned events every day next week to celebrate Delta State’s centennial.
- Dr. Ennis gave an update on his schedule of events for the week. Delta State’s rescheduled Centennial Celebration is Monday, November 10 at 1:00 p.m. in the BPAC.

CABINET TOPIC

Cabinet Advance Takeaways..... Dr. Ennis

Cabinet members reviewed the Cabinet Advance takeaways, and they shared updates as appropriate.

BUSINESS

Action

Academic Offerings policy (revised – final reading); Class Meetings and Assignments policy (revised – final reading); Faculty Positions policy (revised – final reading); Textbook policy (revised – final reading); and Faculty Load and Compensation policy (new – final reading)..... Dr. Griffin

On behalf of the Academic Council, Dr. Griffin brought the Academic Offerings policy, Class Meetings and Assignments policy, Faculty Positions policy, Textbook policy, and Faculty Load and Compensation policy to Cabinet for review and approval.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve and discuss the policies in bulk and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

The Academic Offerings policy details Delta State’s range of degrees, majors, and minors. The offerings are approved by the Provost and in accordance with policies of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board of Trustees. The policy establishes the framework for managing academic offerings and class scheduling to ensure consistency, transparency, and compliance with state and accreditation standards.

The Class Meetings and Assignments policy details the Office of the Provost will establish class meeting and assignments guidelines. The policy establishes the requirements for class meetings and classroom assignments to ensure instructional quality, adequate contact hours, and appropriate use of University facilities per Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board policies and SACSCOC accreditation standards.

The Faculty Positions policy defines and establishes the qualifications for faculty positions at Delta State University. Faculty positions are distinguished by type and rank, with qualifications consistent with the University’s mission, disciplinary standards, and accrediting expectations.

The Textbook policy establishes Delta State’s requirements for the selection, adoption, and disclosure of textbooks and other instructional materials. It ensures compliance with Section 133 of the federal Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 and Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board policy and supports affordability and transparency for students.

The Faculty Load and Compensation policy establishes the standards, definitions, and procedures used by Delta State to determine faculty teaching load in a fair, consistent, and transparent manner.

Dr. Lovin requested the word current be removed from the underenrolled course section definition.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to edit the Faculty Load and Compensation policy and seconded by Dr. Coleman. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the Academic Offerings policy, Class Meetings and Assignments policy, the Faculty Positions policy, the Textbook policy, and the Faculty Load and Compensation policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

None

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- The War and Treaty, November 6, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Delta State Centennial Celebration, November 10, 1:00 p.m., BPAC
- Thanksgiving Holidays for Faculty and Students, November 24-28
- Thanksgiving Holidays for Staff, November 27-28

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, November 18, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.