

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: September 16, 2024**

**Members in attendance:** Dr. Dan Ennis, Ms. Arlene Cash, Dr. Nora Gough-Davis, Ms. Amber Hays, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Ms. Hayden Kirkhart, Dr. Eddie Lovin, and Dr. Suzette Matthews (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

**Members not in attendance:** Dr. Edwin Craft and Dr. Leslie Griffin

**Guests:** Mr. Forrest Upchurch

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on September 16, 2024. The meeting convened at 2:30 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 September 3, 2024.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events of the last few weeks. Cabinet members discussed Pig Pickin' weekend and Statesmen Showcase. Coahoma Community College President Val Towner and his leadership team were on campus for the Transfer Signing Agreement between Delta State and Coahoma Community College.
- Ms. Kirkhart gave an update on SGA activities. Ms. Kirkhart is working with BPAC staff to market the upcoming comedy show to students. SGA is securing buses to transport students to the Mississippi College game in November.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The football team hosts Fort Valley State University on Saturday. The swimming and diving teams have their first meet on Friday at 2:00 p.m. against all swimming and diving teams in Mississippi. Mr. Kinnison announced the resignation of the Head Coach for Swimming and Diving. The cross country teams competes at Rhodes College on Saturday, and the soccer teams compete in Alabama and Florida on Friday and Sunday.
- Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members the events and activities for the week. Delta State's 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration is Monday, September 16 at 1:00 p.m. in the Lena Roberts Sillers Chapel. The first meeting of the Project 3000 committee is Friday.

#### **CABINET TOPIC**

None

## **BUSINESS**

### **Action**

#### **Naming Opportunities policy (revised – final reading) ..... Dr. Matthews**

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Matthews presented the revised Naming Opportunities policy for a final reading.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Matthews to approve the revised Naming Opportunities policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed.

#### **Information Technology Maintenance policy (revised – final reading) ..... Dr. Lovin**

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the revised Missing Student Notification policy to Cabinet for a final reading.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the revised Information Technology Maintenance policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion passed.

#### **Obscene and Harassing Phone Calls policy (revised – final reading) ..... Dr. Lovin**

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the revised Obscene and Harassing Phone Calls policy for a final reading.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the revised Obscene and Harassing Phone Calls policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion passed.

#### **Mississippi Department of Transportation Sidewalk Project..... Dr. Craft**

On behalf of Dr. Craft, Mr. Forrest Upchurch announced the University is to receive a Transportation Alternative Award from the Mississippi Department of Transportation for the continuation of the sidewalk project. A condition of the award is the University must match 20% of the award amount. Repair and Renovation funds are secured to cover the University's match cost.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve Delta State University participating in the Mississippi Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Transportation Alternative Program in order to continue the University's sidewalk project and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion was passed.

#### **Statesman Boulevard extension..... Dr. Craft**

On behalf of Dr. Craft, Mr. Forrest Upchurch shared with Cabinet members the proposed plans for Statesman Boulevard extension. The plan is to extend Statesman Boulevard to the southeast side of the baseball field and continue south to connect with the road between Walter Sillers Coliseum and White Hall. The extension plans coincide with the next phase of sidewalk replacements for the campus. The Mississippi Department of Transportation provides a grant for the sidewalks, and the University must cover the cost of a 20% match. The funds for the match are secured with Repair and Renovation funds. Dr. Ennis and Cabinet members are in full agreement to activate this project.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the Statesman Boulevard extension proposal and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion was passed.

### **Discussion**

#### **Hiring Requests ..... Cabinet Members**

None

**Hiring Requests Approvals ..... Ms. Cole**

Ms. Cole gave an update on the hiring requests approved since the last Cabinet meeting.

**Athletics Enrollment Report.....Mr. Kinnison**

The Budget Sustainability Committee recommended the Athletics Department reduce their expenses by \$350,000 or increase revenue by \$350,000 for FY25. With the assistance of Institutional Research, Effectiveness, and Planning, the Athletics Department determined an additional 35 student-athletes would increase their revenue to the required amount. Further, Institutional Research, Effectiveness, and Planning provided an average of charges paid by student-athletes over three years. Each student-athlete brought the University \$12,394.71. As of today, Athletics has an additional 32 athletes with an increase of revenue of \$396,630.

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

The Admissions' Recruiters are traveling, and the Office of Admissions staff are looking for additional ways to connect with students. To increase the University's potential student funnel, every name of Mississippi seniors was purchased through ACT. A High School Senior Day is being planned for October, and Ms. Cash is working with different departments on the ability to have tours on Saturdays.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Delta State vs. Fort Valley State University, September 21, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field at McCool Stadium
- Leanne Rimes, September 19, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, September 30, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.