

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: September 3, 2024

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, Ms. Arlene Cash, Dr. Edwin Craft, Dr. Nora Gough-Davis, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Ms. Amber Hays, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Ms. Hayden Kirkhart, Dr. Eddie Lovin, 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 September 3, 2024. The meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. with Dr. Ennis presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Dr. Matthews, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on August 19, 2024.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events of the last few weeks. Dr. Matthews shared about the Greater Jackson Alumni Sippin' with the Statesmen event. Delta State hosted Mississippi Delta Community College for a transfer agreement signing and campus tour. Northwest Community College hosted a Delta State University Day on their campus last week. Several substantive meetings occurred to discuss the partnership between the two schools.
- Ms. Kirkhart gave an update on SGA activities. The tailgate policy was passed to Student Senators to create a draft policy. Also, SGA is working with Athletics on a permanent parking solution for students at football games. The Student Director of the Union and BPAC Executive Director are discussing a performance geared towards students.
- Dr. Craft provided an update on facilities projects. The BPAC project continues to progress. The roofing project has halted due to the needs of the architect. The School of Nursing building has issues, and the University is working with the contractors and architect to rectify them. The University lost a chiller last week, and the part needed would be available in 60 days. An offline chiller at Ewing Hall was revived for a temporary fix to the University's chiller issues.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The first home football game is Saturday against Missouri S&T University, and kickoff is at 6:00 p.m. The men's soccer team hosts St. Edward's University and Texas A&M International University on Thursday and Saturday, respectively. The women's soccer team hosts Clayton State University on Thursday, and they travel to Missouri S&T University on Sunday. The cross-country team competes at Mississippi College on Friday.
- Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members the events and activities for the week. Dr. Matthews shared the Pig Pickin' schedule with Cabinet members. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors met this morning for their monthly meeting. The Gulf South Conference Board of

Directors met today for their quarterly meeting. The Statesmen Showcase is Saturday, and 140 students are signed up to attend.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Scholarships and Graduate Assistantships policy (revised – final reading).....Ms. Cash

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Ms. Cash brought the revised Scholarships and Graduate Assistantships policy to Cabinet for a final reading.

Motion: Moved by Ms. Cash to approve the revised Scholarships and Graduate Assistantships policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed.

Missing Student Notification 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 Missing Student Notification policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Gough-Davis. The motion passed.

Undergraduate Student Orientation policy (revised – final reading)Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the revised Undergraduate Student Orientation policy for a final reading.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the revised Undergraduate Student Orientation policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion passed.

Discussion

Hiring Requests Cabinet Members

In following the hiring guidance set forth by Dr. Ennis, Cabinet members presented their requests for review. After review by Cabinet members, Dr. Griffin and Dr. Craft will meet with Dr. Ennis to provide added context as to the need for the given position or positions prior to Dr. Ennis granting or denying hiring approval.

Academic Affairs requests

Dr. Griffin requested to search for and hire an Academic Counselor for the Delta Educational Opportunity Center. The position is grant funded.

Hiring Requests Approvals Ms. Cole

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

University Advancement..... Dr. Matthews

Dr. Matthews informed Cabinet members she is revising the Naming Opportunities policy. She has a potential naming opportunity, and she discussed it with Cabinet members.

Budget Update and Class Cancellation/Recruitment Update Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft informed Cabinet members the University's current budget is \$1 million above in revenue from this time last year.

Dr. Craft shared with Cabinet members an update on the class cancellation process. 126 students were removed from classes this morning for non-payment. At the beginning of the process last Thursday, the list of students to be removed from classes was 330; however, staff members made calls and emailed students to reduce the list to 126. 80% of the students removed from classes were actively participating in Canvas. 30 students never logged into Canvas.

Dr. Craft believes 50 to 75 students will be lost due to the class cancellation, and enrollment should be flat. The University's FTE has increased, and the dual enrollment count has decreased. After the losses from class cancellation, the University's increased revenue should be approximately \$500,000.

Unofficial information collection.....Ms. Cash

Ms. Cash informed Cabinet members the Enrollment Group discussed the use of unofficial information collection for transcripts, and the University will accept unofficial information for applications. The University must have an official transcript on file prior to registration of their second semester at the University. Also, official test scores are needed from those committed to coming to the University.

Planning For Enrollment Increase of 3,000 in Fall 2025: What will it take, where do we start?Dr. Ennis

Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members his goal for Fall 2025 is a 3,000-student headcount. The headcount should not be any fillers that inflates the headcount beyond revenue. Dr. Ennis plans to create a taskforce to begin answering the questions needed and creating a plan to reach this goal. He will share more information soon.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Pig Pickin' Weekend, September 6-7
- Delta State vs. Missouri S&T, September 7, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field at McCool Stadium
- 99th Anniversary Celebration, September 16, 12:00 p.m., Lena Roberts Sillers Chapel
- Delta State vs. Fort Valley State University, September 21, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field at McCool Stadium

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, September 16, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.