

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: September 30, 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 30, 2024. 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. Matthews, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on September 16, 2024.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events of the last few weeks. Delta State held its 99<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on September 16. The Leann Rimes performance at the BPAC sold all but twenty-five tickets. Dr. Ennis met with Ms. Georgene Clark to discuss the 1969 Sit-In Plaque in Kethley Hall. Due to Hayes Cooper inhabiting Kethley Hall, the plaque cannot be viewed by the public. Dr. Ennis has tasked the Interim Director of the Delta Center for Culture and Learning to work with the Mississippi Humanities Council on placing a marker in front of Kethley Hall as part of the Mississippi Civil Rights Trail. Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members information about the Mississippi Consortium for Higher Education in Prison conference he attended and the potential of having a program for incarcerated students. University Advancement held a Vision event for Wiley Planetarium. The Office of Student Affairs hosted a trip to Memphis to visit the Civil Rights Museum, and forty-two faculty, staff, and students attended.
- Dr. Griffin shared with Cabinet members an update on changes to the Delta Center for Culture and Learning. Currently, the Delta Center and the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area are going to work as separate entities and focus on their own, separate missions. The Interim Director is Ms. Lee Aylward.
- Dr. Craft gave an overview of Facilities Management projects. Facilities Management replaced two gaskets on down spouts at Kent Wyatt Hall. The fence along Highway 8 needs to be repainted, and Facilities Management is working with different University constituency groups to host a community service painting of the fence prior to November 1.
- Ms. Kirkhart gave an update on SGA activities. SGA hosted an International Coffee Hour for Delta State's international students. Homecoming week activities will be presented at the next meeting. SGA is working with the School of Nursing on an event for breast cancer awareness.

- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The football game was cancelled due to Hurricane Helene. The football team hosts Chowan University on Saturday. The men's soccer team hosts Union University today, and they travel to Christian Brothers University and Harding University later in the week. The women's soccer team hosts Union University today and Mississippi College on Friday. The golf team hosted the Dunning Invitational last week, and the team placed fourth overall. They are competing at Henderson State University today and tomorrow. The cross-country team ran at Blue Mountain University over the weekend, and they placed fifth overall. They travel to Belhaven University this weekend. The swimming and diving teams hosted the University of Alabama over the weekend. The tennis teams hosted Northwest Mississippi Community College for an exhibition match on Friday. Mr. Kinnison is currently reviewing applications for a new Head Coach for the swimming and diving teams.
- Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members the events and activities for the week. The accrediting body for the Commercial Aviation Department is on campus, and several representatives have met with them. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meet on Tuesday. Dr. Ennis travels to Alcorn State University for the inauguration of Dr. Tracy Cook on Friday.

## **CABINET TOPIC**

None

## **BUSINESS**

### **Action**

#### **Shining An (Ava Knight) Light on CMTA 5K run/walk ..... Dr. Ennis**

Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members the request for an outside entity to host a 5K run/walk on Delta State's campus on Sunday, November 17. The race would begin at 3:00 p.m., and it is to raise awareness for Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease. Cabinet members reviewed the course for the race, and they had concerns. Dr. Craft, Dr. Lovin, and the University Police Department will meet with the race organizers to discuss the course.

**Motion:** Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve of Dr. Craft and Dr. Lovin working with race organizers and approving the course on behalf of Cabinet members and seconded by Dr. Lovin. 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. 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.

#### **Finance and Administration requests**

Dr. Craft requested to search for and hire the Director of Accounting. The request is to fill a vacancy due to a change of position.

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

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

**Facilities Management Luncheon ..... Dr. Ennis**

Dr. and Mrs. Ennis are hosting an appreciation luncheon for Facilities Management on Monday, October 7 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Cabinet members are requested to attend and help act as hosts. Cabinet members are requested to arrive at the President’s home by 10:15 a.m.

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

Ms. Cash provided an enrollment update. The Office of Admissions is working on providing information to as many students as possible, and they are working on new recruiting strategies. The planning of the High School Senior Day is progressing, and a High School Junior Day will occur in the spring.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Fall Break for Faculty and Students, October 7-8
- Luncheon for Facilities Management, October 7, 11:00 a.m., President’s House
- Spin Doctors, October 10, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Presidential Tailgate Block Party, October 12, Kickoff at 4:00 p.m.
- Small Green Event, October 24, Rolling Fork
- Crowder, October 24, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, October 14, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.