

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Minutes

Meeting date: August 4, 2025

Members in attendance: Dr. Eddie Lovin, Dr. Vicki Bingham, Dr. Joseph Childs, Dr. Edwin Craft, Ms. Tameka Curry-Bryant, Mr. Peter Dean, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Ms. Tijuana Harris, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Ms. Sydney Pittman, Dr. Suzette Matthews, Ms. Holly Senter, Ms. Fawn Ussery, Dr. Merideth Van Namen, and Ms. Freddie Watt (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Curtis Coleman

Guests: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the University Leadership Council was held in Room 302A of the H. L. Nowell Union on August 4, 2025. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Lovin presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Bingham and seconded by Dr. Craft, all University Leadership Council Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on April 28, 2025, and June 9, 2025.

BUSINESS

Action

Authorized Software policy (revised – first reading) Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft brought the revised Authorized Software policy to the University Leadership Council for review and approval. Authorized software includes any software approved for use by Delta State employees or students. This policy establishes guidelines to reduce information security risks and ensure compliance with software licensing requirements. All users granted access to Delta State's information technology resources are responsible for maintaining valid licensing documentation for any software they install.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the revised Authorized Software policy for a first reading and seconded by Dr. Griffin. The motion passed unanimously.

Conflict of Interest policy (revised – first reading) Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft brought the revised Conflict of Interest policy to the University Leadership Council for review and approval. Employees are prohibited from using their position at Delta State to obtain, or attempt to obtain, pecuniary benefit for himself, other than authorized compensation, or to obtain, or attempt to obtain, pecuniary benefit for any relative or any business with which he is associated.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the revised Conflict of Interest policy for a first reading and seconded by Ms. Ussery. The motion passed unanimously.

Password policy (first reading) Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft brought the Password policy to the University Leadership Council for review and approval. The Office of Information Technology is responsible for the safety and security of all software and hardware applications that are connected to the university network. To aid in the safety of computer software and hardware, this policy establishes a standard for the creation of strong passwords and protection of those passwords within the University information systems. This policy applies to all people who have, or are responsible for, an account on any system accessed on the Delta State University network, computer systems, or any software/hardware systems remote or physical that contain university data.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the Password policy for a first reading and seconded by Dr. Griffin. The motion passed unanimously.

Blood Procurement policy (revised - first reading) Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin brought the revised Blood Procurement policy to the University Leadership Council for review and approval. All blood drives on the Delta State University campus must be pre-approved by the Vice President for Student Affairs, in consultation with the Outreach Coordinator for the O. W. Reily Health Center. This policy was updated to reflect a title change for a position within University Services. The Union and Student Programming Manager is now the Program Manager for Okra Entertainment.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the Blood Procurement policy for a first reading and seconded by Ms. Ussery. The motion passed unanimously.

Campus Advertising, Sponsorship, & Solicitation policy (revised - first reading) Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin brought the revised Campus Advertising, Sponsorship, & Solicitation policy to the University Leadership Council for review and approval. This policy provides rules and regulations pertaining to campus advertising, sponsorship, and solicitation in accordance with the By-Laws and Policies of the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning. Delta State University has made a commitment to control the time, place, and manner, and to prohibit where appropriate, advertising, sales, and solicitation activities which are not specifically authorized by the University. This policy was updated to reflect a title change for a position within University Services. The Union and Student Programming Manager is now the Program Manager for Okra Entertainment.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the revised Campus Advertising, Sponsorship, & Solicitation policy for a first reading and seconded by Dr. Bingham. The motion passed unanimously.

Hazing policy (revised - first reading) Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin brought the revised Hazing policy to the University Leadership Council for review and approval. As a state institution of higher education, Delta State University recognizes the importance of fostering the personal, social, and academic development of students, through teaching, research, and service. Delta State University is committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students, by creating an environment that is free of fear, humiliation, and exclusion. DSU is committed to providing opportunities for growth and development in a safe and supportive manner. In keeping with its commitment to a positive academic environment, Delta State University has unconditionally opposed any situation created intentionally or unintentionally to produce mental, physical, psychological, or emotional discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. The definition of hazing was revised, and it is known as intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person (whether individually or in concert with other persons) against another person or persons regardless of the willingness of such other person or persons to participate that: is committed in the course of an initiation into, an affiliation with, or the

maintenance of membership, in a student organization; and, causes or creates a risk, above the reasonable risk encountered in the course of participation in the institution of higher education or the organization, of physical or psychological injury. Additionally, the Criminal Sanctions under State of Mississippi Law section was revised to coincide with the laws of the State. Any person may file a report concerning the alleged violation(s) of the University Hazing policy by any student acting individually, or as part of a student organization as defined by this policy. Reports shall be prepared in writing, either by the individual reporting the hazing conduct or by the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support taking a verbal referral and submitted online via the Hazing Incident Report form. Interim action by the Vice President of Student Affairs and the process to resolve the issue are covered within the Student Code of Conduct, and both are linked within the policy.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the revised Hazing policy for a first reading and seconded by Ms. Curry-Bryant. The motion passed unanimously.

Institutional Mission policy (revised - first reading)Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin brought the revised Institutional Mission policy to the University Leadership Council for review and approval. Editorial changes were made to the policy, and the related documents were updated.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the revised Institutional Mission policy for a first reading and seconded by Ms. Senter. The motion passed unanimously.

Outdoor Amplified Sound policy (revised - first reading)Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin brought the revised Outdoor Amplified Sound policy to the University Leadership Council for review and approval. Delta State University realizes the privilege to enjoy outdoor entertainment, and programs must be weighed against the basic need of students and other residents of the university community to enjoy an atmosphere free from excessive noise. Delta State University allows outdoor amplified sound on campus under specific conditions designed to minimize distractions from the educational purpose of the university and unwarranted disturbance of residents in the Delta State community. This policy was updated to reflect a title change for a position within University Services. The Union and Student Programming Manager is now the Program Manager for Okra Entertainment. At the request of members of the University Leadership Council, the Bologna Performing Arts Center will be added to the list for those organizations participating in outdoor amplified sound.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the revised Outdoor Amplified Sound policy for a first reading and seconded by Dr. Griffin. The motion passed unanimously.

Student Code of Conduct (revised - first reading)Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin brought the revised Student Code of Conduct to the University Leadership Council for review and approval. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the values embraced by the University community and reflected in their various policies, contracts, rules, and regulations. The Student Code of Conduct describes the types of acts that are unacceptable in an educational community and the general process by which they will be addressed (including the types of sanctions that may be imposed). Procedural guidelines consistent with the provisions of this code will be developed as necessary from time to time so that fundamental fairness may prevail. The Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning Policies and Bylaws, Section 301.0801 (F) states that the President of Delta State University is charged with the responsibility of maintaining appropriate standards of student conduct and is authorized to expel, dismiss, suspend, and place limitations on continued attendance and to levy penalties for disciplinary violations subject to procedures of due process.

The President has delegated the *Student Code* and its student conduct process to the Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA). The VPSA has identified the Program Manager for Student Conduct & Community Support as the individual who will oversee the *Student Code*.

This policy was updated to reflect a title change for a position within University Services. The Union and Student Programming Manager is now the Program Manager for Okra Entertainment. Additionally, definitions of a Conduct Officer, Hearing Board Advisor, and Hearing Body Coordinator were added to the Student Code of Conduct. A Conduct Officer and Hearing Board Advisor are appointed or selected by the Program Manager for Student Conduct and Community Support. The Program Manager for Student Conduct and Community Support or their designee oversees all aspects of the administrative hearings and can be known as the Hearing Body Coordinator.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the revised Responsibilities for Assets policy for a first reading and seconded by Ms. Ussery. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

None

Additional information

- None

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Meeting – Monday, August 18, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.