

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Minutes

Meeting date: September 29, 2025

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

Members not in attendance: Dr. Suzette Matthews and Ms. Freddie Watt

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 September 29, 2025. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Lovin presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Griffin and seconded by Dr. Craft, all University Leadership Council Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on August 4, 2025.

BUSINESS

Action

Departmental Transfers of Equipment policy (revised – first reading)..... Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft brought the revised Departmental Transfers of Equipment policy to the University Leadership Council for review and approval. Equipment can be transferred on a temporary or permanent basis in accordance with specified procedures outlined in the policy. All equipment transfers must be conducted in a manner that ensures proper documentation, accountability, and compliance with university and state asset management regulations. A temporary transfer is the relocation of equipment from one department to another for a period not exceeding three months, after which the item returns to the original department. A permanent transfer is the relocation of equipment from one department to another with no intention of return, and which requires formal update to the university's asset management system. Both departments must retain a copy of the temporary transfer documentation for a minimum of five years or until the item is returned and reconciled with the original inventory. Once a permanent transfer is completed and acknowledged by the Procurement Office, the receiving department becomes fully responsible for the asset's tracking, care, and audit readiness.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the revised Departmental Transfers of Equipment policy for a first reading and seconded by Dr. Griffin. The motion passed unanimously.

Chalking policy (new – first reading)Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin brought the new Chalking policy to the University Leadership Council for review and approval.

Chalking on campus property is permitted only under certain conditions. Failure to adhere to the guidelines may result in monetary and/or disciplinary action as provided in policy and/or the Student Code of Conduct. Only registered student organizations, University departments, faculty organizations, or approved candidates for Student Government Association (SGA) elections, including elections for Homecoming, may engage in chalking. Chalking is only allowed on natural tan/gray concrete sidewalks that are directly exposed to rainfall. Chalking must not occur within 20 feet of any building, including porches, stairs, and drive-thrus. Only solid, exposed concrete surfaces are permitted. Only washable chalk that will fade after exposure to several rains may be used. The university recommends the use of Crayola® sidewalk chalk, and spray chalk is prohibited. All departments reserve the right to remove chalking for aesthetic or event purposes. Removal of chalk from approved areas will be handled by the university department seeking removal. Student organizations are responsible for the removal of the chalking at their own expense if guidelines are not followed. Violators may be subject to judiciary action under the Student Code of Conduct.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the new Chalking policy for a first reading and seconded by Dr. Coleman. 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 its various policies, contracts, rules, and regulations, including those contained herein. The Student Code of Conduct (Student Code) 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.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the Student Code of Conduct for a first reading and seconded by Ms. Curry-Bryant. The motion passed unanimously.

Suspended Student via Disciplinary Action policy (revised - first reading) Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin brought the revised Suspended Student via Disciplinary Action policy to the University Leadership Council for review and approval. A student suspended via disciplinary action from Delta State University forfeits all rights and privileges afforded by a student at this institution. This means that any student suspended via disciplinary action is restricted from involvement in any academic or extracurricular activity at Delta State University. A suspended student found on campus in violation of the restrictions set forth in this policy will be directed to leave immediately. Failure to comply may result in additional disciplinary sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct. If the student engages in conduct that violates University policy or state law—including but not limited to trespass, disorderly conduct, or threats to the safety of others—the matter may also be referred to law enforcement, which could result in arrest or other legal action.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the Suspended Student via Disciplinary Action policy for a first reading and seconded by Ms. Curry-Bryant. The motion passed unanimously.

Critical Needs Emergency Fund policy (revised - first reading)Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin brought the revised Critical Needs Emergency Fund policy to the University Leadership Council for review and approval. The policy title included the name of a donor; however, the Vice President for University Advancement requested the title be changed to 'Critical Needs Emergency Fund' policy. In conjunction with the Delta State University Foundation, Inc., the University offers a critical needs emergency fund, when requested and approved, to ease a student's burden when catastrophic and unforeseen financial hardships arise. The critical needs emergency fund, designed strictly to meet catastrophic and unforeseen financial hardships, may not be used as a scholarship, award, or for other academic based recognition. The Office of Financial Aid is responsible for reporting all disbursements from the fund. The Office of Financial Aid may disburse up to \$4,000/annually to students in need. The President may authorize disbursement from the fund in excess of \$4,000/annually, in consultation with the Vice President for Advancement.

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

Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment policy (new - first reading)Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin brought the new Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment policy to the University Leadership Council for review and approval. Delta State University expects that all members of the University community – students, faculty, and staff – should be able to pursue their work and education in a safe environment, free from sex-based misconduct. The University prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, which includes sex-based harassment, in its education and employment programs and activities. The prohibited offenses outlined in this policy may also be prohibited by Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S. C. § 1681 et seq. ("Title IX"), by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act ("Clery Act") and Section 304 of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 ("VAWA"), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ("Title VII"), and other applicable federal and state laws. This policy prohibits a broad continuum of harassment on the basis of sex, some of which are not prohibited under Title IX or other laws. Their inclusion in this policy reflects Delta State University's commitment to maintaining a working and learning environment free of discrimination and harassment. Nothing in this policy shall affect the right of an individual to file a complaint with external law enforcement agencies, if applicable. A complaint may be filed concurrently with external law enforcement agencies and the University without jeopardizing an individual's rights to an investigation or other process. Inquiries regarding the application of this policy and the respective resolution process and procedures used to resolve complaints may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator, to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

Upon approval of this policy, the following policies will be sunset: Harassment policy, Harassment (Employee) policy, Sexual Assault, Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking policy, Sexual Harassment policy, Title IX Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Assault, and Sexual Harassment policy, and Title IX Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Assault, and Sexual Harassment (Employee) policy.

Dr. Lovin made a motion to table the discussion on the Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment policy until the October 13 meeting.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to halt discussion of the Sex Discrimination and Sex-Based Harassment policy

until the next meeting and seconded by Ms. Curry-Bryant. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

None

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Meeting – Monday, October 13, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

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