

# DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

### *Minutes*

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**Meeting date: October 12, 2022**

**Members in attendance:** Dr. E.E. Caston, Dr. Joshua Armstrong, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Ms. Lucia Chacon Habis, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Mr. Rick Munroe, Dr. Andy Novobilski, Dr. Michelle Roberts, and Mr. Jamie Rutledge (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

**Members not in attendance:** Dr. Caroline Fletcher

**Guests:** Ms. Holly Ray, Chair-Elect, Administrative Staff Council

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on October 12, 2022. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Caston presiding.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Mr. Rutledge, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on September 26, 2022.

#### **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

- Cabinet members had a moment of silence in memory of Delta State alumna and Greenville Police Officer Myiesha Stewart. Ms. Stewart was a member of the 2014-15 Lady Statesmen basketball team and a 2015 graduate of Delta State.
- Dr. Caston gave an overview of the activities and events from the last week. A press conference was held to announce the Agriculture Aircraft Operations Career Pathway Program. Peabo Bryson and Taylor Dayne performed at the BPAC. Dr. Caston met with Delta State alumnus and Executive Director of Casey Family Programs William Bell. The Department of Commercial Aviation held an alumni reunion in conjunction with Pig Pickin' Weekend. Mr. Munroe stated Pig Pickin' Weekend was well attended, and Alumni Affairs raised more funds than last year. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce held their monthly Board of Directors meeting in Young-Mauldin Cafeteria. Dr. Caston and Mr. Jeff Slagell participated in a signing ceremony with Mississippi State University President Mark Keenum for the Mississippi Library Partnership consortia. Foundation Board President Tom Janoush and Delta State alumnus John Cox held a Visioning event last week. Dr. Caston participated in the Bayou Academy Homecoming Parade as the Grand Marshall. Dr. Caston shared with Cabinet members the passing of Delta State alumna and former faculty member Eloise Walker.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The football defeated North Greenville University over the weekend. They host University of West Alabama on Saturday while defending their 6-0 record. The women's soccer team won against University of West Georgia and Valdosta State University, and they tied with Mississippi College. They will host Union University on Friday and Christian Brothers University on Sunday. The men's soccer team lost to Mississippi College last weekend. They are scheduled to host Union University on Friday and travel to Christian Brothers University on Sunday. The golf team has competed in two tournaments, and they finished 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The cross country

team competes at the University of Alabama-Birmingham on Friday. Both basketball teams begin their official practices this Saturday. The women's basketball team has an exhibition game against University of Mississippi on October 28, and the men's team has an exhibition game against University of Southern Mississippi on November 1. The swimming and diving teams host Rhodes College for a meet this weekend.

- Mr. Rutledge shared an update on Facilities projects. The Bureau of Buildings approved the architect firm Burris/Wagnon Architects, P.A. for the Foundation Hall, Court of Governors, and the BPAC projects. Mr. Rutledge has a meeting with the architects next Tuesday to discuss the BPAC project. The School of Nursing parking lot is complete with final touches occurring on the light poles. Faculty, staff, and students can begin parking in the lot next week. The roof on Whitfield Hall is completed. The Repair and Renovation projects are moving forward slowly. Mr. Rutledge advised the university to request a re-appropriation of Repair and Renovation funds during the next legislative session in order to not lose any funds given to the university. Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet members the golf course development project has been cancelled. Facilities Management will be maintaining the golf course; however, there is currently not a plan to open up the golf course for use. Cabinet Members expressed concerns regarding the possible danger of people (particularly unsupervised youth) riding golf carts and all terrain vehicles on the berms located north of the Kent Wyatt Hall parking lot. Mr. Rutledge will work with Facilities Management to post signs on the golf course to deter all-terrain vehicles from driving on those areas.
- Ms. Chacon Habis shared an update on Student Government Association. She announced a record number of individuals ran for Homecoming Court this year. There were 1,022 votes cast in the election with 980 votes being valid. All voting was conducted in Canvas this year. The runoff election for Homecoming Queen takes place today.
- Dr. Caston shared with Cabinet members some of the meetings and events planned for this week. Dr. Caston plans to speak to Faculty Senate tomorrow at their monthly meeting. The President's Football Reception is Saturday beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Dorgan Center. All Cabinet members are invited to attend.

**CABINET TOPIC**

None

**BUSINESS**

**Action**

None

**Discussion**

**Institutional Effectiveness and Planning..... Dr. Novobilski**

Dr. Novobilski informed Cabinet members Dr. Josie Welsh continues to work with various departments around campus. She requested to speak to the Student Government Association and Student Senate on the SACSCOC reaffirmation process. She is reviewing the university's annual reports and will provide a list to Dr. Novobilski of departments that did not submit reports. The SACSCOC Vice President assigned to Delta State's reaffirmation process will visit the university in February. Mr. Rutledge announced that Dr. Edwin Craft, the new Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration, will serve on the university's leadership team for the SACSCOC reaffirmation process.

**Budget Update ..... Mr. Rutledge**

Mr. Rutledge informed Cabinet members the amendment made to the FY23 budget approved by Cabinet members on September 26, 2022, will be sent to IHL next week. Mr. Rutledge shared an update on Delta State's application, which was submitted in August, for the tax credit from the IRS. According to the IRS, the university passed the first review; however, the application process is six months behind schedule.

**Days of Cash ..... Mr. Rutledge**

Mr. Rutledge distributed a report to Cabinet members showing the timeline for when the university can achieve 90 days of cash, as required by IHL. The plan to increase days of cash is based on two assumptions: 1) expenditures will not increase for four years unless additional funding is received; and, 2) unfilled positions will remain unfilled; enrollment will increase by 3% in FY24; enrollment will be flat from FY25 to FY27; and, budgeted contingencies will increase cash an estimated \$1,200,000. If the assumptions are met, the university should have 90 days of cash by FY27.

**Additional Information**

- Dr. Caston announced IHL Board President Tom Duff and IHL Board of Trustee Teresa Hubbard will visit Delta State on November 2.

**INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:**

- Delta State vs. University of West Alabama Football Game, October 15, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field-McCool Stadium (Pink Out)
- Legally Blonde – The Musical, October 20, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Miss Delta State University Scholarship Competition, October 27, 7:00 p.m., BPAC
- Early Registration Week, October 31 – November 4
- Homecoming Week, October 31 – November 5
- Little River Band, November 3, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, October 24, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – Homecoming (Dr. Lovin, Ms. Chacon Habis, Mr. Kinnison, and Mr. Munroe)

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.