

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: August 10, 2026

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, Dr. Curtis Coleman, Dr. Edwin Craft, Ms. Evelyn Greer, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Dr. Suzette Matthews, Ms. Collins Phelps, and Dr. Jon Westfall (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: None

Guests: Ms. Katie Lusk

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on August 10, 2026. 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 July 27, 2026.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Matthews provided updates on her division. Communications and Marketing collaborated with an external company to install a brick melt mural of the fighting okra on Wyatt Gym. The Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith Airplane Dedication Ceremony was a successful event, and the Senator Hyde-Smith expressed great appreciation and satisfaction with the recognition. Alumni Affairs is actively preparing for the upcoming Pig Pickin' events. The Foundation closed the month of July with a substantial six-figure contribution.
- Dr. Lovin shared that students are arriving on campus for various reasons. Panhellenic New Member Recruitment begins this week, and 26 students are participating. All students will be returning to campus on Saturday for Move-In Day.
- Dr. Craft shared an update on campus renovations and upgrades. The ceiling renovations in Ewing Hall are completed on the first and third floors. The ceilings within three classrooms on the third floor will be renovated, as well. The renovations in Foundation Hall are completed, and the floors within Foundation Hall will be updated next year. The planetarium will receive a new dome in November. The renovations in Wyatt Gym are in progress. The Williams Bookstore is receiving a new ceiling grid and lighting, and it should be completed this week. The roof repairs of the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing will begin at the end of the month. The construction on the Walter Sillers Coliseum continues; however, some of the inside work will pause until March to allow for basketball practice and season play.
- Dr. Coleman provided an overview of Fall 2026 enrollment data. Currently, enrollment data shows an increase of 61 students from this time last year. The increase is seen in first-time transfer and

readmitted students. First-time freshmen is down from this time last year, and first-time graduate students are down by only one student. Lastly, Dr. Coleman showcased the recruiting efforts for Fall 2027 in Slate.

- Dr. Westfall announced the first Faculty Senate meeting of the semester is Thursday. Dr. Craft will provide a financial update and a progress report on facilities management projects.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The football team begins their second week of practice this week. The soccer team begins practice this week. Athletics will host an orientation session for new staff and coaches this week. The Night of Champions is Friday at The Gin at the West End District.
- Dr. Griffin shared updates about Academic Affairs. Two groups of Academic Affairs employees are at community colleges today to promote Delta State programs. Trainings and professional development opportunities are available to faculty and staff to ensure they are prepared for their roles and changes to programs due to AI. Dr. Griffin is working with all of Academic Affairs this upcoming year on ensuring they “close the loop.”
- Ms. Greer announced New Student Orientation and Student Convocation are next week.
- Dr. Ennis thanked Dr. Matthews, Ms. Lusk, Dr. Craft, Facilities Management staff, OIT staff, and University Advancement staff for their hard work in ensuring a successful dedication ceremony for Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith this morning. The scholarship task force has met twice, and they are working through the way in which Delta State will distribute scholarships and the creation of scholarship parameters that allow more students to receive scholarship funds. The goal of the scholarship task force is to find the most efficient use of the university’s scholarship dollars to recruit, retain, and graduate students. The Gulf South Conference ad hoc committee on football continues to work on possible solutions for the football-playing schools. Dr. Ennis attended the Mississippi House of Representatives education consolidation meeting last week. The Mississippi Delta National Heritage hired a new executive director, Dr. Timla Washington, and she will be visiting Dr. Ennis on Tuesday. As a welcome back to school and a treat during practice and camps, Dr. Ennis is providing the football team, the soccer teams, and the band with snow cones on Wednesday. Dr. Ennis will be the guest speaker for the Women’s Club on Tuesday. Dr. Ennis will host Athletics staff for a reception on Wednesday, and the potential new members participating in Formal New Member Recruitment for lunch on Thursday. The GRAMMY Board of Directors has their quarterly meeting on Thursday. The final Takin’ Care of Business is on Friday.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUINESS

Action

2027 PASSPORTmissions at Delta State.....Dr. Lovin

Dr. Lovin presented the request of PASSPORTmissions to reserve facility and academic spaces for their July 2027 camp. As is customary for the university, facility reservations can be made six months prior to an event. Their request for facilities includes student housing in residence halls, Young-Mauldin Cafeteria for

dining, academic classrooms, William Young Student Outdoor Recreation Area, Wyatt Gym, State Room, BPAC, and Jobe Hall. Their request is to reserve the spaces for July 4-9, 2027.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the request to reserve university facilities for PASSPORTmissions 2027 summer camp and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion passed unanimously.

Animals on Campus policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Animals on Campus policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University is committed to maintaining a safe, sanitary, accessible, and orderly campus while providing individuals with disabilities equal access to University programs, services, activities, employment, and housing. The University permits service animals, service animals in training, emotional support animals, therapy animals, and pets only as authorized by applicable law and this policy. The policy shall be interpreted consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Fair Housing Act, and the Mississippi Support Animal Act, as applicable.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Collegiate Recreation & Wellness Facility Usage & Safety policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Collegiate Recreation & Wellness Facility Usage & Safety policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University is committed to maintaining safe, clean, accessible, and welcoming Collegiate Recreation & Wellness facilities for students, employees, authorized community users, guests, and program participants. All patrons must comply with University policies, posted facility rules, and directives issued by authorized personnel.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Food Selection & Nutrition Standards for The Statesman’s Shelf policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Food Selection & Nutrition Standards for The Statesman’s Shelf policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University is committed to maintaining a food pantry that supports the health, academic success, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff by providing nutritious, practical, and culturally inclusive food options. The Statesman’s Shelf Food Pantry will promote dignity, choice, and equitable access while considering guests’ dietary needs, living arrangements, available resources, and food preparation limitations.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Administrative Review policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Administrative Review policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University may conduct an administrative review to determine whether a student should be removed temporarily or permanently from University-owned or managed housing when necessary to protect the health, safety, or well-being of the residential community. This administrative review process addresses a student's continued eligibility to reside in University housing and is separate from, and in addition to, any Student Code of Conduct proceeding or other University process.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Alterations to Residential Facilities policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Alterations to Residential Facilities policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University prohibits residents from making unauthorized physical, structural, mechanical, electrical, or cosmetic alterations to University-owned or managed residential facilities. Residents responsible for unauthorized alterations may be charged for all costs required to restore the space and may be subject to disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct policy.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Animals policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Animals policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University regulates animals within University-owned or managed housing to protect the health, safety, accessibility, and quiet enjoyment of the residential community while complying with applicable disability laws. Except as provided in this policy and the University's Animals on Campus policy, only water-breathing fish maintained in aquariums of ten (10) gallons or less are permitted in University-owned or managed housing.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Appeals policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Appeals policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University requires students subject to the University's residency requirement to reside in University-owned or managed housing. Students who enter into a housing contract are required to comply with the terms of that contract for the full academic year. Contract releases and residency exceptions are granted only for approved reasons or extraordinary circumstances through the established appeal process.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Authorized Access and Restricted Areas policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Authorized Access and Restricted Areas policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University requires residents and guests to enter, exit, and access University-owned or managed residential facilities only through authorized entrances and with appropriate access credentials or permission. Entering restricted areas, bypassing access controls, or using emergency exits, windows, or balconies for nonemergency access is prohibited.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Break Periods policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Break Periods policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University establishes operating schedules for University-owned or managed housing during academic breaks and requires residents to comply with all published closing, reopening, and break-housing procedures. Students who remain in closed facilities or fail to vacate by the published deadline may be subject to disciplinary action.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Damage Charge Appeal policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Damage Charge Appeal policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University provides students with an opportunity to request review of individual housing damage charges and certain additional housing-related fees that the student believes were assessed in error. This policy establishes the procedures for requesting review of those charges. The decision of the Program Manager for Housing Administration constitutes the University's final administrative determination regarding the damage charge appeal.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Disability-Related Housing Accommodations policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Disability-Related Housing Accommodations policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University provides reasonable housing accommodations to qualified students with disabilities to ensure equal access to University-owned or managed residential facilities. Housing accommodations are determined individually through Accessibility Services in coordination with Student Housing and are subject to necessity, reasonableness, feasibility, availability and applicable law. The University will engage in an interactive process with the student, as appropriately, to determine an effective reasonable housing accommodation.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Hall Sports and Disruptive Behavior policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Hall Sports and Disruptive Behavior policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University prohibits hall sports and other disruptive behavior that interferes with the normal operation of University-owned or managed residential facilities or infringes upon the safety, rights, or well-being of students, guests, or University employees. Violations may result in one or more sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct and assessment of damage charges, repair costs, replacement costs, cleaning charges, or other charges authorized by the Student Housing Contract or applicable University policy.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Implied Consent and Passive Participation policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Implied Consent and Passive Participation policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University requires students in University-owned or managed residential facilities to take reasonable action when they become aware of

conduct that violates University policy. Students may be held responsible for facilitating, encouraging, concealing, or remaining present during a violation when they fail to leave, intervene safely, or report the conduct to an appropriate University official.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Lockouts and Temporary Access Cards policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Lockouts and Temporary Access Cards policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University requires residents to maintain possession of the access credentials needed to enter their assigned residential space. Residents who require assistance because of a lockout or who are issued a temporary access card may be assessed applicable fees and charges in accordance with University policy and the published Tuition and Fees schedule.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Personal Property and Responsibility and Liability policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Personal Property and Responsibility and Liability policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University is not responsible or liable for the loss of or damage to personal property in University-owned or managed residential facilities. Residents are responsible for safeguarding their belongings and are strongly encouraged to maintain renter’s insurance or other applicable insurance coverage.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Powered Micromobility Devices policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Powered Micromobility Devices policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University is committed to maintaining residential environments that protect the health and safety of students, employees, guests, and visitors. Powered micromobility devices and their batteries are prohibited inside all University-owned or managed residential facilities; however, this prohibition does not apply to powered mobility devices used by individuals with disabilities as required by applicable federal and state law. This policy applies only to University-owned or managed residential facilities. Other University buildings may be subject to separate University policies governing powered micromobility devices.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Property Damage, Vandalism, and Discriminatory Actions policy (final reading) Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Property Damage, Vandalism, and Discriminatory Actions policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University requires residents and their guests to respect Student Housing property and the property of others within University-owned or managed residential facilities. Property damage, vandalism, graffiti, and discriminatory conduct within Student Housing communities are prohibited and may result in financial responsibility and disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct policy.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Residential Safety and Hazardous Conduct policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Residential Safety and Hazardous Conduct policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University requires residents to conduct themselves in a manner that does not endanger themselves, others, or the safety and security of University-owned or managed housing. Behavior that creates or unreasonably contributes to a risk of harm may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to removal from student housing.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Vacant Bedspaces and Roommate Assignments policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Vacant Bedspaces and Roommate Assignments policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University requires residents of multi-occupant rooms and apartments to keep vacant bed spaces and shared areas clean, orderly, and available for immediate assignment. Residents may not occupy, obstruct, or discourage assignment of a vacant bed space unless the room has been officially privatized or an approved housing accommodation provides otherwise.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy to Cabinet for a final reading. Delta State University is committed to maintaining walkways, hallways, breezeways, and other means of egress within University-owned or managed residential facilities that are safe, accessible, and free from obstruction. Residents may not store personal property, place trash, or interfere with security and fire-safety doors in these areas.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Walkways, Breezeways, and Divider Doors policy.*

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to consider and approve all policies presented in bulk and seconded by Ms. Greer. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve all policies and seconded by Dr. Craft. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

None

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Takin' Care of Business Day, August 14, Jacob Conference Center

- Night of Champions, August 14, 7:00 p.m., The Gin
- Student Move-In Day, August 15
- Live and Lit on Leflore Block Party, August 15, 5:00 p.m., in front of the President's Home
- DSU Welcome Back Party hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, August 17, 5:00 p.m., The Pharm Cleveland
- Student Convocation, August 18, 3:00 p.m., BPAC
- Fall 2026 Classes begin, August 19

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, August 24, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.