

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: August 11, 2025

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, Dr. Curtis Coleman, Dr. Edwin Craft, Mr. Peter Dean, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Ms. Hayden Kirkhart, and Ms. Holly Senter (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Suzette Matthews

Guests: Mr. Cecil Barnett, Mr. Kelvin Davis, Mr. Eric Diamond, Ms. Dana George, Mr. Aaiden Hayes, Ms. Corley Mullins, Chief Michael Peeler, and Dr. Michelle Roberts

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on August 11, 2025. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Ennis presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Ms. Senter, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on July 14, 2025.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Lovin shared the Statesmen Pioneers return to campus tomorrow, and SGA has their retreat tomorrow. Student Move-In Day and Live on Leflore is on Saturday. New Member Recruitment has begun, and Okratation begins on Saturday. Student Convocation is at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19.
- Dr. Craft gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The painting in Foundation Hall is complete. Brumby Castle Hall has some air conditioning is due to leaks in the control valves. The hallways in HPER and the Student Success Center in Roberts-LaForge Library are being painted. The new scoreboard should be operational for the second home game. Four trees are being removed near Young-Mauldin Cafeteria. Facilities Management continues to work on campus facilities in preparation of students' return on Saturday.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The football team is beginning their third week of football camp, and their first game is August 28. The soccer teams and cross country teams have reported, and soccer begins practice on Thursday. The student-athlete welcome back assembly is on Tuesday, August 19.
- Dr. Griffin announced New Faculty Orientation is in one week. A new Director of Institutional Research, Effectiveness, and Planning has been hired, and they begin on September 1.
- Ms. Kirkhart provided an update on Student Government Association activities. SGA retreat is tomorrow, and they are assisting with Okratation and Move-In Day. They have worked hard on the Student Convocation, and the keynote speaker is Jody Holland.
- Dr. Ennis gave an update on his schedule of events for the week.

CABINET TOPIC

Homecoming 2025..... Cabinet Members

Dr. Ennis requested all Cabinet members to share their involvement and scheduled events of Homecoming to ensure events are not overlapping and stretching our people, labor, and materials too thin. Students celebrate Homecoming 2025 from Monday, October 13 to Saturday, October 18. Their scheduled events include Okra Olympics, a campus-wide scavenger hunt, international event, Delta State birthday party at the skating rink, a panel discussion with Under 40 award winners, and workshops. The annual NPHC Stomp Fest begins at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 18. The Homecoming parade has not been scheduled for Saturday, October 18 due to the earlier kickoff time of the football game. Student Affairs and SGA are in discussions at other available times. The Alumni Affairs portion of Homecoming 2025 is on Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18. The swimming and diving teams have their 40th anniversary reunion, and the 2000 National Championship football team has a reunion, as well. The Under 40 Awards recognition and presentation is Friday, October 17 at 5:30 p.m. The kickoff of the football game is 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Athletics is hosting a pre-game tailgate for all former athletes, announcing the 2026 Hall of Fame induction class, and partnering with Alumni Affairs on the 2000 National Championship football team reunion. The Dedicated Statesmen plan to have a ribbon cutting for the flag plaza during Homecoming week. Dr. Craft urged Cabinet members to submit facilities' requests and food services requests as soon as possible.

Alumni Affairs will oversee tailgating in Statesman Park. The tailgating form will include the expectations of organizations while tailgating. Public Safety officers are tasked with handling all disturbances. Any student group submitting forms for tailgating will be shared with Student Affairs. Alumni Affairs will create a Homecoming 2025 schedule, and they requested all events be shared with them for inclusion.

BUSINESS

Action

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

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Craft brought the revised Authorized Software policy to the Cabinet 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 and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

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

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Craft brought the revised Conflict of Interest policy to the Cabinet 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 Conflict of Interest policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

Password policy (revised – final reading)..... Dr. Craft

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Craft brought the Password policy to the Cabinet 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 revised Password policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Promotion policy (revised -final reading)..... Dr. Griffin

On behalf of the Academic Council, Dr. Griffin brought the revised Faculty Promotion policy to Cabinet for review and approval. Delta State University tenure-track faculty appointments are at the ranks of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor. Delta State University non-tenure track faculty appointments are at the ranks of Instructor, Assistant Professor of Practice, Associate Professor of Practice, and Professor of Practice. Initial appointment to rank is determined at the time of hire by the School/Division Chair in consultation with the School/Division Tenure and Promotion Committee and the Dean and is based on academic credentials and/or exceptional discipline-related experience as defined by appropriate accrediting agencies. Decisions in favor of awarding promotion are made in recognition of accomplishments in response to the following criteria: teaching, scholarship, and service, with collegiality demonstrated across all areas of professional responsibility, as well as the appropriate academic background for appointment to the appropriate rank. Evaluation shall be based on all three areas and the positions as defined in the Faculty Positions Policy, although it is realized that differences in emphasis may exist, depending on the academic discipline.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the revised Faculty Promotion policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Promotion – Library Services policy (revised – final reading)..... Dr. Griffin

On behalf of the Academic Council, Dr. Griffin brought the revised Faculty Promotion – Library Services policy to Cabinet for review and approval. Delta State University Library Services faculty appointments are at the ranks of Professor, Associate Professor, and Assistant Professor. Decisions in favor of awarding promotion are made in recognition of accomplishments in response to the following criteria: professional competency, scholarship, and service, with collegiality demonstrated across all areas of professional responsibility, as well as the appropriate academic background for a tenure appointment. Evaluation shall be based on all three areas, although it is realized that differences in emphasis may exist depending on the nature of the individual's assignment.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the revised Faculty Promotion – Library Services policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Tenure policy (revised – final reading)..... Dr. Griffin

On behalf of the Academic Council, Dr. Griffin brought the revised Faculty Tenure policy to Cabinet for review and approval. Tenure serves the best interests of the faculty and the University by protecting

faculty members from dismissal except for reasons set forth by policies of the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) Board of Trustees. Delta State University regards the acquisition of knowledge to be of paramount importance; and society, through enlightened self-interest, provides the University as a place for teaching and learning. Tenure in universities provides protection that scholars require and serves society's aspirations that scholars should have freedom of expression. All faculty employed in a position designated as tenure-track at the time of initial appointment to rank at the assistant professor level or higher who have satisfied the minimum requirement for years of service in a probationary appointment shall be considered for tenure.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the revised Faculty Tenure policy and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion was passed unanimously.

Faculty Tenure – Library Services policy (revised – final reading) Dr. Griffin

On behalf of the Academic Council, Dr. Griffin brought the revised Faculty Tenure – Library Services policy to Cabinet for review and approval. Tenure serves the best interests of the Library Services faculty and the University by protecting Library Services faculty members from dismissal except for reasons set forth by policies of the IHL Board of Trustees. Delta State University regards the acquisition of knowledge to be of paramount importance; and society, through enlightened self-interest, provides the University as a place for teaching and learning. Tenure in universities provides protection that scholars require and serves society's aspirations that scholars should have freedom of expression. All Library Services faculty employed in a position designated as tenure-track at the time of initial appointment to rank at the assistant professor level or higher who have satisfied the minimum requirement for years of service in a probationary appointment shall be considered for tenure.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the revised Faculty Tenure- Library Services policy and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion was passed unanimously.

Blood Procurement policy (revised – final reading) Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the revised Blood Procurement policy to the Cabinet 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 and seconded by Dr. Griffin. The motion was passed unanimously.

Campus Advertising, Sponsorship, and Solicitation policy (revised – final reading) Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the revised Campus Advertising, Sponsorship, & Solicitation policy to Cabinet 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 manners, and to prohibit where appropriate, advertising, sales, and solicitation activity which is 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 Campus Advertising, Sponsorship, & Solicitation policy and seconded by Dr. Griffin. The motion was passed unanimously.

Hazing policy (revised – final reading) Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the revised Hazing policy to the Cabinet 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 any 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 Hazing policy and seconded by Dr. Griffin. The motion was passed unanimously.

Institutional Mission policy (revised – final reading)..... Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the revised Institutional Mission policy to the Cabinet 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 Institutional Mission policy and seconded by Dr. Griffin. The motion was passed unanimously.

Outdoor Amplified Sound policy (revised – final reading) Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the revised Outdoor Amplified Sound policy to the Cabinet 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 Outdoor Amplified Sound policy and seconded by Dr. Griffin. The motion was passed unanimously.

Student Code of Conduct (revised – final reading) Dr. Lovin
Dr. Lovin tabled this policy for further review.

Discussion

Organizational Chart..... Dr. Ennis
Ms. Cole has received the last changes for the organizational chart, and it will be submitted as final this week. If any Cabinet members have any last minute changes, please send them to her as soon as possible.

Enrollment Update Dr. Coleman
Dr. Coleman shared with Cabinet members an update on enrollment. In the first-time freshmen category, 457 students are confirmed and 377 of those students have registered for Takin’ Care of Business Day. In the transfer student category, 401 students are confirmed and 338 of those students have registered for Takin’ Care of Business Day. In the graduate student categories, 168 first-time graduate students are confirmed. Delta State’s Open House is October 31, and 160 students have already registered. A graduate student review day will be in September.

Budget Update Dr. Craft
Dr. Craft and his staff are closely following the enrollment numbers to determine if our budgetary estimates for revenue will be met. The revenue for July was above last year’s revenue for July. Auditors will be on campus this week to help us close out our books for FY25.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Takin’ Care of Business Day, June 18
- Desoto County Alumni Happy Hour, June 19
- Night of Champions, August 8
- Pig Pickin’ Weekend, September 5-6
- Foundation Scholarship Reception, October 16
- Foundation Board of Directors Meeting, October 17
- DSU 40 Under 40, October 17
- Delta State Homecoming, October 18

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, August 25, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.