

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: August 25, 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, Dr. Suzette Matthews, and Ms. Holly Senter (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: None

Guests: Ms. Tijuana Harris, Ms. Katie Lusk, Ms. Sydney Pittman, Ms. Freddie Watt, and Mr. Ray Wolfe

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on August 25, 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 Dr. Matthews, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on August 11, 2025.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Lovin shared 741 students are residing in the residence halls this fall. He is working with the Mississippi Municipal League on hosting the Youth Leadership Summit on Delta State's campus in February. Iota Phi Theta is conducting interest meetings to create a chapter at Delta State.
- Dr. Craft gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The water tower project is almost complete, and the water pressure effected by the project will return to normal soon. The bids for the Sillers Coliseum project have been returned; however, we are looking at alternatives to the bids to include renovations of the restrooms and offices for the coaches. The elevator for the BPAC should be ready for use at the second show of the season. The new scoreboard for Parker Field should be installed by the second home game. The bids for the HVAC project came in over price. Dr. Craft and his staff revised the project ramifications, and the next round of bids came in underprice. The pool replastering project has been completed, and the pool has ben refilled.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The cross country team has their first meet next Friday at Mississippi College. Both soccer teams are playing in exhibition matches to prepare for their upcoming seasons. The men's soccer team opens their season this weekend against Ouachita Baptist University. The football team has their first game on Thursday beginning at 6:00 p.m. against University of Central Missouri.
- Dr. Griffin announced the Honors Program begins next week. The new master's degree in higher education administration has sixteen enrolled students. The university has some unfilled faculty positions, and the deans and chairs are working to fill those positions.
- Ms. Kirkhart provided an update on Student Government Association activities. She announced

Freshmen Rise and Student Senate applications achieved a record number of applications. SGA will host a tailgate on Thursday for the first football game, and they will host “Cool Down on the Quad” on Saturday.

- Dr. Ennis gave an update on his schedule of events for the week.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Academic Standing policy (revised – final reading) Dr. Griffin

On behalf of Academic Council, Dr. Griffin brought the revised Academic Standing policy to the Cabinet for review and approval. An undergraduate student will be classified in good academic standing if the institutional grade point average on Delta State University work and the overall grade point average is 2.00 or greater at the end of each semester. Academic standing is noted on the student's permanent record and on student grade reports. Some programs may have higher grade point average standards for admission or completion of the program. The policy will be renamed to “Undergraduate” Academic Standing policy, and the policy was revised to reflect undergraduate students only.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the revised Undergraduate Academic Standing policy and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion passed unanimously.

Administrative Appointments – Tenure and Promotion policy (revised – final reading) Dr. Griffin

On behalf of Academic Council, Dr. Griffin brought the revised Administrative Appointments – Tenure and Promotion policy to the Cabinet for review and approval. The policy on Administrative Appointments – Tenure and Promotion establish the rules by which administrators may be eligible to apply for and/or be awarded tenure and/or promotion.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the Administrative Appointments – Tenure and Promotion policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Credentials Dr. Griffin

On behalf of Academic Council, Dr. Griffin brought the revised Faculty Credentials policy to the Cabinet for review and approval. This policy establishes the procedures and responsibilities for certifying faculty credentials according to accreditation requirements and best practices.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the Faculty Credentials policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion was passed unanimously.

Intellectual Property policy (revised – final reading)..... Dr. Craft

On behalf of Academic Council, Dr. Griffin brought the Intellectual Property policy to the Cabinet for review and approval. Intellectual property is information and original expression that derives its intrinsic value from creative ideas and has commercial value. Ownership is subject to international, federal, and state laws and to university policy.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the revised Intellectual Property policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion passed unanimously.

Unit/Division Chair policy (revised -final reading)..... Dr. Griffin

On behalf of the Academic Council, Dr. Griffin brought the revised Unit/Division Chair policy to Cabinet for review and approval. This policy establishes the compensation, workload, and summer responsibilities of academic unit/division chairs, ensuring consistent expectations and supporting effective leadership that advances academic excellence and student success. The title of this policy will be changed to School/Division Chair, and the policy was revised to reflect this change.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the revised School/Division Chair policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Enrollment Update Dr. Coleman

Dr. Coleman shared with Cabinet members an update on enrollment. Delta State's Open House is October 31, and 160 students have already registered. The Office of Admissions will host a Graduate Preview Day for our seniors interested in graduate programs on September 17. Additionally, they are planning a luncheon for counselors and those that assist students in choosing an institution of higher learning. The date has not been set.

Budget Update Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft shared external auditors are reviewing the university's financials to close out FY25. The MBR was submitted successfully. Additionally, the Legislative Budget Office is closely monitoring budgets to prepare for the next legislative session.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Benefits Fair, August 26, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Ferguson State Room
- DSU vs. University of Central Missouri, 6:00 p.m., Parker-Field – McCool Stadium
- Labor Day Holiday, September 1
- Tauren Wells, September 4, 7:30 p.m., BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, September 8, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.