

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: July 14, 2025

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, Dr. Curtis Coleman, Dr. Edwin Craft, Mr. Peter Dean, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Ms. Hayden Kirkhart, Dr. Suzette Matthews, and Ms. Holly Senter (via phone) (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Leslie Griffin and Mr. Mike Kinnison

Guests: Ms. Dana George

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on July 14, 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 June 16, 2025.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Matthews announced that Bolivar Medical Center Foundation awarded Delta State a \$600,000 grant to replaster the pool in the Ronald Mayers Aquatic Center.
- The Delta State University Foundation raised 83% more funds in FY25 than in FY24.
- Dr. Lovin announced Ms. Christina Knight has assumed the role as Program Manager of Okra Entertainment, and the position of Coordinator of Student Affairs is vacant. Additionally, the residence hall staff reports to campus on July 23 for training.
- Dr. Craft gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The final punch list for the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing and Health Sciences is being completed, and their new furniture is arriving. Brumby Castle Hall, Blansett Hall, and Lawler-Harkins Hall received new lobby furniture. The ADA renovations to the Bologna Performing Arts Center are almost complete. The campus-wide HVAC project is out for bid, and the roofing project will be out for bid soon. Foundation Hall received floor and paint renovations this summer. New pipes are being laid in front of Health Services to assist with flooding on campus. The Student Success Center is being relocated to the Roberts-LaForge Library, and the renovations to the library have begun. The renovation of the water tower begins on August 1. The bids for the new scoreboard for Parker Field are due on July 22. The Fall 2025 BPAC season will be announced on Thursday evening. Lastly, Dr. Craft shared his appreciation for the student athletes assisting with campus projects this summer.
- In the absences of Mr. Kinnison, Ms. George gave an update on Athletics. Student athletes from the football team, soccer teams, and cross country are on campus for voluntary summer workouts. Any remaining student athletes in fall sports will report the first or middle of August. Night of Champions is August 8 at Walter Sillers Coliseum.

- Ms. Holly Senter announced a new chair-elect will be voted upon at the next Staff Council meeting as Dr. Heather Miller stepped down to focus on her new role.
- Ms. Kirkhart provided an update on Student Government Association activities. SGA is planning to collaborate with several departments on their events this upcoming year. They are working on their roles in New Student Orientation, Student Convocation, Welcome Week, and Homecoming.
- Dr. Ennis gave an update on his schedule of events for the week. He reiterated to Cabinet members his appreciation for their hard work and dedication to ensuring a welcoming environment for the IHL Board of Trustees, IHL Staff, and colleagues from our sister institutions during the June IHL Board meeting hosted on campus.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Course Fees Dr. Craft

In the absence of Dr. Griffin, Dr. Craft presented and explained the new, increased, or decreased course fees for the 2025-2026 academic year. There is additional course fees not presented today; however, those fees have not been revised. Dr. Craft announced course fees are being moved back to Fund 10, and they will not be housed in 108 funds anymore. All course fees will be reviewed to ensure that they are directly linked to student experience.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the new or revised 2025-2026 course fees and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Organizational Chart..... Dr. Ennis

Dr. Ennis presented the draft organizational chart for FY26. He asked Cabinet members to submit changes to Ms. Cole by Friday, July prior to July 18, 2025.

Course Cancellation Process Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft brought the current course cancellation process to Cabinet for discussion. The course cancellation process ensures that students meet their payment obligations in a timely manner, and courses are not cancelled due to balance owed.

Student Business Services has permission to override the purge process if a student meets one of the following criteria:

- Financial Aid Office notifies Student Business Services that the student has incoming aid that has not posted to the student account.
- Students have a balance of less than \$1,000.
- Students are officially enrolled in a payment plan.
- Students have third party assistance that has not posted to a student's account, but it has been confirmed with Student Business Services (WIOA, VA, AmeriCorp, Vocational Rehab, MPACT/Pre-Paid Tuition Plan, and other third party scholarships/programs).
- Graduate Studies and Continuing Studies notify Student Business Services of dual enrollment students,

senior citizens, and students who are receiving graduate assistantship and community college waivers.

- Human Resources/Financial Aid coordinate to notify Student Business Services of employees who are receiving tuition remission.
- President makes special approval outside of the above criteria.

Communication with students begins six weeks prior to the start of the semester, and it continues until the day before class cancellation. Class cancellation occurs at 8:00 a.m. on the morning after the last day to add/register for classes.

Enrollment Update Dr. Coleman

Dr. Coleman shared with Cabinet members an update on enrollment. In the first-time freshmen category, 399 students are confirmed and 326 of those students have registered for a Takin' Care of Business Day. In the transfer student category, 313 students are confirmed and 258 of those students have registered for Takin' Care of Business Day. In the graduate student categories, 114 students are confirmed, and 31 returning students are confirmed.

Dr. Ennis requested Dr. Coleman, Dr. Lovin, and Dr. Craft to work together to determine if the University has an increase in enrollment from the schools in which we created MOUs last year.

Budget Update Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft provided Cabinet members with an update on the University budget and the days of cash on hand. The budget process for the year and keeping the University budget open worked efficiently.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- BPAC Annual Member Event and Artist Reveal, July 17, 6:00 p.m., BPAC
- Takin' Care of Business Day, July 30 and August 15
- Kick-Off Luncheon for Staff, August 8, 11:30 a.m., Ferguson State Room
- Night of Champions, August 8, 7:00 p.m., Walter Sillers Coliseum
- New Student Okration, August 16-19
- Chamber Welcome Back Reception, August 18
- Cabinet Advance, August 22, 9:00 a.m., B. B. King Museum, Indianola

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, August 11, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

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