

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: July 27, 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: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on July 27, 2026. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Ennis presiding.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Lovin shared that students are arriving on campus for various reasons. The residence assistants are on campus this week for training, and some of the band members are here for practicing purposes.
- Dr. Craft shared that tickets for the Fall 2026 BPAC season went on sale today. Human Resources will host a new hire orientation on August 17. The orientation will continue throughout the year on the first and fifteenth of each month. Additionally, Human Resources is assisting with leadership training of Facilities Management staff. Dr. Craft announced the University purchased mowing machines. This purchase does not eliminate any positions and allows for existing employees to focus on other needed projects. The construction within Ewing Hall continues. Classrooms on the first and third floors are being renovated, and the second floor classrooms will commence renovations at the conclusion of the first and third floors. The roofing project will begin in approximately three months. Foundation Hall received new floors on the first floor. The roofing project for the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing will begin in three weeks. The renovations in Wyatt Gym continue, and the ceiling and wall painting will be finished soon.
- Dr. Coleman provided an overview of Fall 2026 enrollment data. The Office of Admissions' goal is to increase enrollment by 10% across all student areas. The fall events for the Office of Admissions is a Counselor Luncheon on September 9, Open House on October 1, and several options for Saturday tours.
- Dr. Westfall announced faculty are gearing up for the fall semester. He is working with Faculty Senate on increased visibility and closing the loop for the year. Their first meeting is August 13.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The football team has completed their voluntary workouts for the summer. They report on Monday, August 3 for the fall season with camp beginning on Wednesday, August 5. The soccer teams and cross country teams report on Saturday, August 8 with

practice beginning Monday, August 10. The tennis coach has accepted a position at another institution, so Mr. Kinnison is searching for a replacement. The Night of Champions is on Friday, August 14.

- Dr. Griffin shared updates about Academic Affairs. With the creation of the College of Aviation, Dr. Joe Childs will be stepping down as the Dean of the College of Business and assuming the role of Dean of the College of Aviation on August 1. Dr. Griffin hosted an interim dean candidate last week, and he has accepted the offer to serve in this role. Dr. Ross Dickens will begin as interim dean on August 1. Dr. Griffin will be working with a firm to search for and hire a replacement College of Business Dean. The entirety of Academic Affairs will undergo multiple trainings in the coming months for Title II and workforce development. As a part of the University's accreditation with SACSCOC, we have to be fully ADA compliant by April 2027. Efforts are underway for this to be completed.
- Ms. Greer announced the Student Government Association has a retreat on Friday, August 14, to prepare for the upcoming school year. Student Convocation is Tuesday, August 18.
- Dr. Matthews shared with Cabinet members the hiring of Ms. Anna Parker Arbuckle as the Coordinator of Alumni Affairs and Ms. Tasha Huerta as Graphic Design and Creative Services Manager. The Foundation has a new website, and they are fixing a few small issues.
- Dr. Ennis attended the Stennis Institute Capitol Press Forum in Jackson to hear Senator Nicole Boyd and Representative Donnie Scoggin discuss the future of higher education in Mississippi. Dr. Ennis was appointed to the MS Post Secondary Attainment Council, and their inaugural meeting was held a few weeks ago. One of the major goals of this committee is to align K-12, community colleges, and higher education institutions with workforce development to generate employment opportunities for Mississippi residents for Mississippi industries. Dr. Ennis will host a dinner for housing staff this Wednesday, and he will travel to Jackson this weekend for the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony to see Dr. Ronnie Mayers get inducted.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUINESS

Action

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

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 – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Assignment Eligibility and Requirements policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University requires residents to be admitted to the University and enrolled in at least six credit hours throughout each semester to remain eligible for a Student Housing assignment. Students who do

not satisfy the applicable admission or enrollment requirements may lose their housing assignment or be denied permission to move in.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Bicycle Storage and Parking policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

Delta State University requires bicycles to be stored in designated bicycle racks or approved residential spaces and prohibits storage in hallways, stairwells, restrooms, breezeways, sidewalks, or other areas that obstruct access or violate fire safety requirements. Improperly parked or abandoned bicycles may be fined, removed, or confiscated.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Common Area Damages and Group Billing (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

Delta State University holds residents responsible for maintaining common areas and may assess charges for damages, vandalism, theft, improper disposal of trash, or other policy violations. When individual responsibility cannot be determined; charges may be shared among the residents of the affected community, and additional disciplinary or housing action may be taken when warranted.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Communicable and Infectious Diseases policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University is committed to maintaining residential communities that support the health and safety of residents during communicable or infectious disease concerns. Residents must follow applicable health directives and cooperate with reasonable disease-prevention and response measures implemented by Student Housing, the O.W. Reily Student Health Center, the University, or public health authorities, consistent with applicable law and University policy.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Cooking in Residential Facility policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University requires students to prepare food responsibly and follow established kitchen, grilling, fire-safety, and grease-disposal requirements in University-owned or managed housing. Violations may result in loss of kitchen privileges, charges for damages, and disciplinary action.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

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

Delta State University holds students responsible for the condition of their assigned living spaces, including damages, missing items, improper checkout, and excessive cleaning. Charges may be assessed to the student's account, and disciplinary action may be taken when warranted.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Security Safeguards policy.

Student Housing – Electrical Appliances and Devices policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University regulates the use of electrical appliances and devices in University-owned or managed housing to protect residents, prevent fires, and reduce electrical hazards. Students may use only approved appliances and devices in accordance with the requirements established for their assigned residential facility.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Electrical Safety policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

Delta State University is committed to maintaining a safe residential environment by promoting the proper use of electrical equipment within University-owned or managed housing. To reduce the risk of fire, electrical shock, and property damage, residents must comply with the electrical safety requirements set forth in this policy, including restrictions on extension cords, power strips, overloaded circuits, and electrical equipment.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

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

Delta State University requires residents to use elevators safely and prohibits tampering, overloading, vandalism, obstruction, or other misuse of elevator systems. Violations may result in repair or retrieval charges, disciplinary action, and removal from student housing.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Entry into Assigned Residential Spaces policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University reserves the right for authorized personnel to enter assigned residential spaces when reasonably necessary for emergencies, health and safety, maintenance, welfare checks, inspections, facility operations, or enforcement of University policies. Entry will be conducted with reasonable notice when practical and without advance notice when urgent circumstances, legal requirements, or the protection of persons or property warrant immediate access.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Fire Alarms-Equipment and Safety policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

Delta State University requires all residents to protect fire and life-safety equipment and immediately evacuate University-owned or managed housing whenever a fire alarm sounds. Tampering with safety equipment or failing to evacuate may result in damage charges, disciplinary action, removal from housing, and criminal penalties.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Flammable Items and Fire Hazards policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University prohibits flammable materials, open-flame items, and other appliances or devices that present a fire hazard in University-owned or managed housing. Violations may result in confiscation, fines, damage charges, and disciplinary action.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Health and Safety Inspections policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University conducts health and safety inspections of University-owned and managed residential facilities to ensure living spaces remain clean, sanitary, safe, and free from conditions that may endanger residents or damage University property.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Keys, Access Credentials, and Lockouts policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

Delta State University requires students to safeguard all identification cards, access cards, keys, and key fobs issued for entry into University-owned or managed residential facilities. Access credentials may be used only by the student to whom they are issued and may not be duplicated, transferred, or used to provide unauthorized access.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Painting and Wall Treatments policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University prohibits residents from painting or applying potentially damaging adhesive wall treatments in University-owned or managed residential facilities. Painting of residential or shared spaces may occur only when approved and coordinated by authorized Student Housing personnel.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Plumbing and Drainage Systems policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

Delta State University requires residents to use plumbing and drainage systems responsibly and promptly report leaks, clogs, overflows, or other plumbing concerns in University-owned or managed residential facilities. Residents responsible for damage caused by misuse may be charged for all related repairs and corrective work.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Private Rooms and Room Privatization policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University may permit a student to occupy a multi-occupant room as a private room when space is available and Student Housing determines that privatization will not interfere with housing assignments or operational needs. Occupying a room without a roommate does not automatically create a private-room assignment or authorize the student to use the vacant bed space.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Refund of Room and Meal Plan Charges policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University is committed to maintaining fair and consistent procedures for refunding room and required meal plan charges when a student officially withdraws from the University or receives an approved release from the housing contract. Vacating or ceasing to use an assigned residential space does not, by itself, terminate the housing contract or entitle a student to a refund.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Relocation and Reassignment policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

Delta State University reserves the right to relocate residents or modify housing assignments when necessary to support facility operations, resident welfare, disciplinary or supportive measures, occupancy management, public health guidance, or governmental directives. Residents must comply with relocation instructions within the time frame established by Student Housing and remain responsible for all obligations under their housing contract.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Residency Requirement policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

To foster a holistic educational experience and support academic success, Delta State University requires all full-time undergraduate students to live in university-owned residence halls during their final and second years. Students are expected to complete four semesters of campus residency. Exemptions may be granted based on criteria set forth in this policy.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Resident Checkout policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University requires students to properly check out of their assigned residential space and leave it clean, empty, and free of personal belongings. Failure to complete checkout procedures or retrieve abandoned property may result in fines, cleaning or damage charges, and disposal of the property.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Resident Responsibilities and Compliance policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University requires residents to know and comply with the terms of their housing contract and all applicable University policies and regulations. Continued compliance is a condition of occupancy in University-owned or managed housing.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Residential Solicitation and Business Activities policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University prohibits unauthorized solicitation, advertising, sales, and business activities within University-owned or managed residential facilities. All such activities must comply with the Campus Advertising, Sponsorship, and Solicitation policy and any additional access, security, and operational requirements established by Student Housing. This prohibition applies regardless of the content, viewpoint, or subject matter of the solicitation.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Room Changes policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University permits room changes only during designated periods and through the established Student Housing approval process. Unauthorized room changes or failure to complete required checkout procedures may result in fees, reassignment, or disciplinary action in accordance with applicable University policies.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Room Decorations and Personalization policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University permits residents to personalize their assigned living spaces using approved materials and methods that do not damage University-owned or leased property or create a fire or safety hazard. Residents are responsible for complying with all decoration, furniture, and wall-coverage requirements.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Room and Suitemate Relationships policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University requires residents to share assigned rooms, suites, apartments, bathrooms, and common living areas in a respectful, safe, and cooperative manner. Residents are expected to communicate in good faith, honor established community expectations, participate in conflict-resolution efforts, and comply with all applicable University policies.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Severe Weather and Emergency Shelter policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University requires residents and guests to follow University emergency notifications and instructions during severe weather or other emergencies affecting University-owned or managed residential facilities. Residents must promptly evacuate, shelter in place, or relocate to a designated shelter area when directed by University officials or emergency personnel.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Trash Disposal and Removal policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University requires residents to properly bag and dispose of trash in designated trash rooms,

collection areas, chutes, or dumpsters serving University-owned or managed residential facilities. Trash left in unauthorized locations may result in removal charges, fines, 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 – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – University-Provided and Student-Owned Furniture policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University requires residents to properly use, maintain, and retain all University-provided furniture in its assigned location and to remove all student-owned furniture from their assigned space at checkout. Unauthorized removal, relocation, damage, loss, or abandonment of furniture may result in fines, repair or replacement charges, removal costs, 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 – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Visitation-Quiet and Courtesy Hours- and Overnight Guests policy (final reading) Dr. Lovin

Delta State University permits guests in University-owned or managed housing in accordance with established escort, visitation, and overnight guest requirements. Residents and their guests must observe all quiet and courtesy hours and remain considerate of the rights, safety, and well-being of others.

**All policies to be voted upon in bulk. The action taken can be read under Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy.*

Student Housing – Windows and Security Safeguards policy (final reading)Dr. Lovin

Delta State University requires window screens and security safeguards in University-owned or managed residential facilities to remain properly installed, secured, and free from damage or tampering. Violations may result in damage charges and disciplinary action.

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

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

Discussion

Title II Accessibility Dr. Griffin

Dr. Griffin shared with Cabinet members the University will develop a plan for accessibility to be fully ADA compliant by April 2027.

Thank You Cookout for Facilities ManagementDr. Ennis

Dr. Ennis is hosting a cookout for Facilities Management on Wednesday, August 5. He needs volunteers to help with preparations, cooking, and being food runners. He asked Cabinet members to share their availability with Ms. Cole.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Thank You Cookout for Facilities Management, August 5, 10:30 a.m.
- Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith Airplane Naming Ceremony, August 10, 10:30 a.m. Delta State Airport Hangar
- 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 10, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

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