

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: June 3, 2025

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

Members not in attendance: Mr. Peter Dean and Ms. Hayden Kirkhart

Guests: Dr. Jon Westfall, President-Elect, Faculty Senate

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on June 3, 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 May 5, 2025.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Ennis and Cabinet members gave an overview of their activities and events of the last few weeks.
- Dr. Craft gave an update on Facilities Management projects. The renovations of the water tower will begin soon. A kickoff meeting for the university's campus master plan is on June 25. Facilities Management received quotes for bathroom renovations at McCool Stadium and goals and scorers' tables at Walter Sillers Coliseum. Dr. Craft met with the insurance company last week to finalize estimations of roof damage from the hail storm a couple of years ago. All funds received from the insurance company must be utilized to fix the repairs listed in the estimations. Additionally, the insurance company is providing funds to fix the lights at the baseball and softball fields damaged by hail. The Robert E. Smith School of Nursing and Health Sciences substantial completion date is June 11, and faculty and staff can take occupancy in July. The new construction on the outside of the BPAC will be bricked soon. Facilities Management is repairing issues and painting inside Foundation Hall this summer. The CCED will no longer be utilized by the IRS, and they are going to reimburse the university for half of the architect fees. Dr. Craft is reviewing the preliminary plans for Ward Hall.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. Coaches are busy recruiting and rebuilding teams during the summer months. Mr. Kinnison attended the GSC Annual Meeting, and he announced format changes will be made to basketball and baseball conference tournaments. The loss of football playing member institutions and the next steps forward were discussed. During the GSC Annual Meeting, Delta State's Brett Burrell was awarded the Commissioner's Top Ten trophy.
- Dr. Ennis gave an update on the special legislative session. The State legislature passed the State's budget, and at least \$1.1 million was cut from the IHL budget. The public universities will not receive any funds for the priority brick and mortar projects for FY26.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Delta State's Investment Strategy Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft shared with Cabinet members that Delta State will adhere to IHL Policy 708.01 for their investment strategy. Investments for the university will be made through repurchase agreements (repo.) These investments are extremely efficient, short-term liquidity management tools that provide overcollateralization of funds using government guarantees securities (TSY/AGY/MBS), the next day availability of funds, no fees and daily compounding interest. With limitations of FDIC insurance, the repo resolution provides adequate safety, security, and protection on your larger pools of funds while not adding any duration risk typical with individual securities investments. The university will have repurchase agreements at six local banking institutions, and the agreements will provide daily compounding interest. The repurchase agreements do not change the university's days of cash amount.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the university's investment strategy and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion was approved unanimously.

Facility Reservation Request Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft informed Cabinet members an outside entity requested to reserve Jobe Hall Auditorium for an event in August. The event was held in Jobe Hall Auditorium last year. Cabinet members discussed the event, and they approved of the use of space with a caveat of no excessive signage on the outside of Jobe Hall.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the facility reservation request and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion was approved unanimously.

Discussion

Delta State Presentation at Delta State hosted IHL Board Meeting Dr. Ennis

Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members Delta State University will host the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi's Institutions of Higher Learning for their June meeting on June 18 and 19. During the Board meeting, Dr. Ennis will make a presentation about Delta State University. The presentation should speak to the mission of Delta State University and highlight at least one student, faculty member and administrator who represent excellence at our university. Additionally, Dr. Ennis can share information about teaching, research, and service, updates on facilities, athletics, and any other pertinent information that Delta State believes will help the public obtain a better understanding of the university. Dr. Ennis will require assistance from Cabinet members to complete the presentation and add pertinent information.

Enrollment Report from Slate Dr. Coleman

Dr. Coleman shared with Cabinet members an update on enrollment. In the first-time freshmen category, 312 students are confirmed and 199 of those students have registered for a Takin' Care of Business Day. In the transfer student category, 201 students are confirmed and 122 of those students have registered for Takin' Care of Business Day. Dr. Coleman and his staff are working on increasing the category of readmitted students, and fourteen of those students are confirmed. In the graduate student categories,

fifty-five first-time students are confirmed, and four returning students are confirmed.

Power BI Report – First Time Student Enrollment..... Dr. Coleman

Dr. Coleman shared an enrollment report from Power BI on first-time student enrollment. The report showed an increase in all enrollment areas from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025 except for readmitted students.

Okra Head Dr. Coleman

Dr. Coleman shared with Cabinet members the new Okra Head handout. Cabinet members discussed information on the handout and suggested some changes before the final version is printed.

Graduate Checklist Dr. Coleman

Dr. Coleman, with the help of academic departments and his graduate admissions staff, created a Doctoral and Graduate Programs Supplemental Requirements Checklist. This checklist details the requirements of all graduate and doctoral programs and includes application deadlines.

Fall 2025 Admissions Events Dr. Coleman

Dr. Coleman announced the following Fall 2025 Admissions events:

- Fall Graduate Virtual Takin’ Care of Business Day (Tentative) – August 16-19
- Senior Week – Graduate School Resource Fair – September 17, 2025
- Mississippi Delta Community College Homecoming – September 19, 2025
- Coahoma Community College Homecoming – September 27, 2025
- Hinds Community College Homecoming – October 16, 2025
- Delta State Homecoming – October 17, 2025
- Open House (Halloween Theme) – Friday, October 31, 2025
- Counselors’ Luncheon – November 13, 2025

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Takin’ Care of Business Day, June 4, and June 18
- Leflore County Alumni Happy Hour, June 5
- Hattiesburg Alumni Happy Hour, June 11
- Gulf Coast Alumni Happy Hour, June 12
- 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, June 2, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

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