

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: September 21, 2026

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, 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: Dr. Curtis Coleman

Guests: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on September 9, 2026. 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 September 9, 2026.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Matthews announced the Delta State University Foundation has received \$1.4 million in gifts this year and has received 90 more gifts compared to the same time last year. A bandstand dedication ceremony honoring Mr. James Donald Cooper is scheduled for next week. On Wednesday, representatives from Hump Marketing will be on campus to assist with marketing initiatives. Communications and Marketing is collaborating with Academic Affairs to produce a video promoting Delta State for the upcoming Ascent to 55% meeting.
- Dr. Lovin shared his appreciation for Dr. Ennis and Ms. Greer participating in the suicide awareness video in recognition of Suicide Awareness Month. The band will travel to Biloxi to participate in the Gulf Coast Invitational at Biloxi High School this weekend. The event will also serve as a recruiting opportunity for the university.
- Ms. Greer announced this week is National Hazing Prevention Week, and Greek Life in collaboration with Okra Entertainment will have an informational table set up in the Nowell Union throughout week along with other activities. Additionally, the African American Student Council will host a vigil in memory of Mr. Trey Reed on Monday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. in Jobe Hall.
- Dr. Coleman shared the recruiting staff are traveling throughout the state over the next two weeks. The Office of Admissions will host Open House on October 1 and participate in an event for GEAR Up on November 13. Both events have received a strong number of registrations to date.
- Dr. Craft announced the university is in the midst of a regular, system-wide audit. The bulk of information being requested from the auditors concerns the Office of Financial Aid. During the

installation of the new roof on the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing, a gutter was removed and highlighted some additional areas of concern for the contractors to fix. Some areas on the north side of Walter-Sillers Coliseum will be released for use on October 1. The turnover date for use by Athletics is November 1 to begin preparations for basketball season.

- Dr. Westfall shared the Executive Committee of Faculty Senate meets on October 1, and he travels to the University of Southern Mississippi on October 2 for the University Faculty Senates Association of Mississippi meeting. Dr. Westfall has suggested Delta State potentially hosting the University Faculty Senates Association of Mississippi meeting next year. He shared with Cabinet members an issue being discussed with Faculty Senate, and the issue is with faculty housing and how to make it more attractive for faculty members.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. The football team is open this weekend, and they will play at home next week against Shorter University. The soccer teams travel to the University of West Alabama on Wednesday, and they host University of Montevallo on Saturday. The golf team is hosting the Dunning Invitational today and tomorrow in West Point. The cross country team travels to Blue Mountain Christian University this weekend. The swimming and diving teams will host the Magnolia State Invitational this weekend. All spring sports teams are practicing for their respective seasons.
- Dr. Griffin gave an update on Academic Affairs. A team for the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs will be on campus this week for the College of Business's reaccreditation process. Delta State, in partnership with Mississippi Delta Community College, received a Mississippi Delta Rise grant. The grant assists each institution in their efforts towards workforce development. Dr. Griffin and others from Academic Affairs travel to Mississippi State University in October to discuss general education programs.
- Ms. Phelps announced Mr. Garrett Gee is the September Employee of the Month.
- Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members that he visited Mr. Trey Reed's family last week. The IHL Board of Trustees hosted their annual retreat last week, and Dr. Ennis participated via Zoom during their finance committee meeting. The funding formula has a general shape; however, a few more details need to be finalized. Dr. Ennis will tour Baxter tomorrow with the new site director, Mr. Wolfgang Loscher. Dr. Ennis travels to Washington, D.C. next week for visits with Mississippi's federal delegation.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUINESS

Action

Pregnancy and Related Conditions Impacting Students policy (final reading).....Dr. Lovin

On behalf of the University Leadership Council, Dr. Lovin brought the revised Pregnancy and Related Conditions Impacting Students policy to Cabinet for a final reading. After the policy was approved in the University Leadership Council, Dr. Griffin and Dr. Vicki Bingham, Dean of the College of Nursing, Health, and Sciences, began working with Ms. Katie Lusk on revised language for the policy with regards to the students of the Robert E. Smith School of Nursing. Until the language can be finalized, Dr. Lovin withdrew the policy to be discussed at a later date.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the Pregnancy and Related Conditions Impacting Students policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Craft.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to withdraw his motion for approval of the Pregnancy and Related Conditions Impacting Students policy and to discuss revisions to the policy at a later date and seconded by Dr. Matthews. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

Higher Education Executive AI Summit..... Dr. Ennis

Mississippi State University will host a Higher Education Executive AI Summit on February 3, 2027. The summit will be a day of dialogue on AI strategy, ethics, implementation, and workforce readiness featuring keynote speakers, panel discussions, and peer-led roundtables. Dr. Ennis asked Cabinet members to share their interest in attending with Ms. Cole by the end of the week.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- James Donald Cooper Band Stand Dedication, September 30, 5:30 p.m., Band Practice Field
- Mrs. Doubtfire, September 30, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Admissions Open House, October 1, beginning at 9:00 a.m., Quad
- Delta State vs. Shorter University, 6:00 p.m., Parker Field-McCool Stadium
- Fall Break, October 5-6

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, October 19, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.