

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: September 9, 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 August 24, 2026.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Matthews shared Pig Pickin' was well attended and received positive feedback despite the extreme heat and the Labor Day weekend timing. Homecoming is the next major event, and all efforts are shifting to its preparations. The Foundation team has begun traveling to engage alumni and donors as part of its ongoing fundraising initiatives.
- Ms. Greer announced NPHC Week is this week, and the first annual NPHC Greek Picnic is September 12. Dr. Lovin and Ms. Greer have discussed taking a student bus to the Mississippi Valley State football game next weekend. Interest meetings for homecoming are next week.
- Dr. Craft provided Cabinet members with an update on the University's days of cash. Additionally, the University has met and exceeded all financial sustainability metrics as required by the IHL Board of Trustees. The Walter-Sillers Coliseum project and Robert E. Smith School of Nursing roofing project are ongoing. The Bologna Performing Arts Center renovations are complete.
- Dr. Westfall shared the Faculty Senate meets tomorrow afternoon, and Dr. Ennis is hosting the senators for a reception immediately following the meeting. The Academic Freedom policy is scheduled for review this year, and Dr. Westfall provided revised language for the policy to include a student's right to learn. Dr. Westfall reminded senators on the established process of bringing forth agenda items and proposals to the Faculty Senate.
- Mr. Kinnison gave an update on Athletics. All teams are active within their seasons or preparing for upcoming seasons. The football team is competing against University of Central Missouri this week and Mississippi Valley State University next week. The men's soccer team begins conference games today

against Christian Brothers University, and the women's soccer team begins conference games on Saturday against Valdosta State University. The cross country team competed at Mississippi Christian University last weekend, and they will run at Rhodes College in two weeks.

- Dr. Griffin shared updates about Academic Affairs. Degree Works launched, and training sessions for faculty and staff begin soon. The ad for the College of Business dean position was posted, and the committee is dedicated to finding the right person to fill the role.
- Ms. Phelps shared the Administrative Staff Council met last week. They are beginning discussions of their Thanksgiving and Christmas projects. The Employee of the Month returns this month, and the first recipient after the program's return will be named on Friday.
- Dr. Ennis met the new site director of Baxter, Mr. Wolfgang Loscher. He and Dr. Matthews attended the Delta Fest in Jackson last week. Lastly, Dr. Ennis thanked those involved in the redistricting hearing planning for their efforts in ensuring the hearing logistics were well planned and executed.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUINESS

Action

Grade Forgiveness and Academic Fresh Start policy (final reading)..... Dr. Griffin

On behalf of the Academic Council, Dr. Griffin brought the revised Grade Forgiveness and Academic Fresh Start policy to Cabinet for a final reading. This policy establishes (1) grade forgiveness and exclusion procedures under which eligible undergraduate students may exclude qualifying course grades, up to a maximum of sixteen (16) credit hours, from the student's institutional grade point average ("GPA"), and (2) an Academic Fresh Start one-time, option for eligible undergraduate students returning after an extended absence.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the revisions to the Grade Forgiveness and Academic Fresh Start policy and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

None

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Town Hall, September 9, 3:30 p.m., Jobe Hall Auditorium
- Jamey Johnson, September 10, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Heather McMahan, September 17, 7:30 p.m., BPAC
- Delta State at MVSU, September 19, 6:00 p.m.
- Presidential Lunch and Learn: The Odyssey, beginning September 21, 12:00 p.m., President's Dining Room in the Young-Mauldin Cafeteria

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, September 21, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

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