

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Minutes

Meeting date: July 22, 2026

Members in attendance: Dr. Eddie Lovin, Dr. Vicki Bingham, Dr. Joe Childs, Dr. Edwin Craft, Ms. Evelyn Greer, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Ms. Sydney Pittman, Ms. Fawn Ussery, Dr. Merideth Van Namen, Ms. Freddie Watt, Dr. Jon Westfall and Ms. Kelli Williams (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Curtis Coleman, Ms. Tameka Curry-Bryant, Ms. Tijuana Harris, Dr. Suzette Matthews, and Ms. Collins Phelps

Guests: Ms. Katie Lusk

Call to Order: A special-called meeting of the University Leadership Council was held via Microsoft Teams on July 22, 2026. The meeting convened at 3:30 p.m. with Dr. Lovin presiding.

BUSINESS

Action

Food Selection and Nutrition Standards for The Statesman's Shelf policy (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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.

Dr. Craft and Dr. Lovin discussed the need for a damages and costs breakdown document; however, this document will not be included in the 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 – Communicable and Infectious Diseases policy (first 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 (first 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 (first 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.*

Student Housing – Electrical Appliances and Devices policy (first 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.

Members discussed adding a rice cooker to the list of non-approved appliances and devices. The policy specifically states the list is not all-inclusive, and Student Housing may prohibit any item determined to create an unreasonable fire or safety risk.

**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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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.

A new addition for flammable items and fire hazards are motorized scooters including electric skateboards, self-balancing boards or scooters, powered micromobility devices, or similar powered mobility or recreational devices. These recreational devices are not permitted in any 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 – Health and Safety Inspections policy (first 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 (first 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.

Members requested the policy to include language about the termination of access credentials for students upon their withdrawing from the university. Dr. Lovin advised Student Housing would ordinarily terminate the resident's access credentials within 48 to 72 hours. This administrative processing period does not extend the housing contract or authorize the resident to remain in or enter Student Housing facilities after eligibility or occupancy rights have ended.

**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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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 (first 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.

Dr. Lovin, Dr. Craft, and Ms. Lusk agreed to have additional discussions about windows in the residence halls with regards to safety, fire codes, and energy efficiency.

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

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

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve all policies and submit to the President’s Cabinet and seconded by Dr. Craft. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

None

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Meeting – Monday, August 17 at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.