

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Minutes

Meeting date: April 16, 2024

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, Dr. Edwin Craft, Mr. David Gladden, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Dr. Christopher Jurgenson, Mr. Mike Kinnison, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Ms. Holly Ray, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Ms. Haley Rooks, Ms. Ashley Tanksley, and Mr. Larry Wakefield (recorder – Ms. Claire Cole)

Members not in attendance: Dr. Leslie Griffin

Guests: Ms. Amber Hays, Chair-Elect, Administrative Staff Council
Mr. Cetin Oguz, Chair, Art Department
Mr. Gunner Sizemore, President's Art Award Winner
Ms. Katie Wadkins, Cabinet Art Award Winner

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President's Cabinet was held in the President's Conference Room on April 16, 2024. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Ennis presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Lovin and seconded by Ms. Ray, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on April 1, 2024.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Ms. Ray introduced Ms. Amber Hays to Cabinet members. Ms. Hays is the Chair-Elect of the Administrative Staff Council, and she assumes the role of Administrative Staff Council Chair soon. Ms. Hays will shadow Ms. Ray at Cabinet meetings until she becomes a full, voting-member on May 13, 2024.
- Dr. Ennis introduced and welcomed Mr. Cetin Oguz, Chair of the Art Department, and asked him to introduce the students who recently won the President's Art Award and Cabinet Art Award at the Juried Student Art Exhibition. Mr. Oguz introduced Mr. Gunner Sizemore, and Mr. Sizemore won the President's Art Award with their untitled photography piece. Mr. Oguz introduced Ms. Katie Wadkins, and Ms. Wadkins won with her piece titled "Lightswitch." Cabinet members congratulated the students on their awards.
- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events from the last two weeks. The Office of Admissions and Dr. Ennis completed his first annual Presidential Admissions Tour last week. The Student Affairs Awards were last week, and students were presented with Greek awards and Emerald awards. Dr. Ennis visit Hinds Community College, and he met their president, Dr. Stephen Vacik.
- Mr. Kinnison provided an update on Athletics. The Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony went very well. The Athletics Green and White Awards is April 29. The baseball and softball teams have two weeks of regular competition left. The golf team competes in the Gulf South Conference tournament next week. The men's tennis team competes in the Gulf South Conference next week, as well. The

football team has their final scrimmage for spring practice this Thursday. The Gulf South Conference announced their Hall of Fame inductee class for 2024, and Delta State's Josh Bright of the 2000 National Championship Football team is part of the induction class. He will be Delta State's sixth inductee.

- Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet member some of the events and activities for the week. The Institutional Executive Officers meet with Commissioner Rankins for their monthly meeting on Wednesday, and the Board of Trustees have their monthly meeting on Thursday. Dr. Ennis and Dr. Roberts have a dinner with legislators this evening, and they will meet with legislators over the next few days.
- Dr. Ennis expressed his appreciation to the Delta State community in preparing the campus for Hayes Cooper Center's transition.
- Ms. Rooks announced the William H. Young Outdoor Recreation Area dedication ceremony is Friday, April 19 at 1:00 p.m. behind Foundation Hall.
- Mr. Wakefield reminded Cabinet members the Retirement and Service Awards Ceremony is Friday, April 19 at 2:30 p.m. in the State Room.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Staff EmeritusMs. Ray

Ms. Ray shared with Cabinet members the names of seven staff members who have been recommended for Emeritus status by the Administrative Staff Council. The staff members were unanimously approved for Staff Emeritus status by the Administrative Staff Council Executive Committee and their respective supervisors and vice presidents.

Motion: Moved by Ms. Ray to recommend to Dr. Ennis the names of the seven staff members for consideration for Emeritus status and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion was approved.

Discussion

Hiring Requests Cabinet members

In following the hiring guidance set forth by Dr. Ennis, Cabinet members presented their requests for review. After review by Cabinet members, Dr. Griffin, Dr. Lovin, and Mr. Wakefield will meet with Dr. Ennis to provide additional context as to the need for the given position or positions prior to Dr. Ennis granting or denying hiring approval.

Student Affairs request

Dr. Lovin requested to search for and hire a Financial Aid Counselor. The position will replace an employee who resigned in February 2024.

Academic Affairs requests

In the absence of Dr. Griffin, Dr. Roberts requested to search for and hire Child Development Center Assistant Teachers (2), Coordinator of Academic Engagement in the Office of the Registrar, the First Year Experience and Writing Specialist in Student Success Center, and the GEAR UP Executive Director. The two Assistant Teachers in Child Development Center and First Year Experience and Writing Specialist are

replacement positions. The Coordinator of Academic Engagement is a new position, and it is funded by a deleted position in Student Success Center. The GEAR UP Executive Director is a replacement position, and it is grant funded.

Hiring Requests Approval..... Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts announced no hiring requests were approved since the last Cabinet meeting.

SACSCOC Update..... Dr. Griffin

Dr. Ennis announced the SACS-COC on-site visit began today. He encouraged all Cabinet members to be available to the on-site team and provide them with documentation or answers, as requested.

Recruitment Update/Overview.....Ms. Tanksley

Ms. Tanksley provided an update on recruitment efforts. The number of admitted students from this time in 2023 to 2024 is down in both first-time, full-time freshmen and transfer. The Takin’ Care of Business Day for transfer students in Friday. The Office of Admissions received positive feedback from the Freshmen Admit Social.

Budget Update Mr. Wakefield

Mr. Wakefield shared with Cabinet members the E&G and Auxiliary Budget to Actual reports from the end of March 2024. The E&G budget was over estimated in some areas, but the University will finish the fiscal year on track. The auxiliary revenue has increased.

Legislative Update..... Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts provided an update on the legislative session. The final push for appropriation bills is the week. The University should tentatively know the amount to be received from State appropriations for FY25.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Most Beautiful Pageant, April 2, 7:00 p.m., BPAC
- Freshmen Admit Social, April 5, 10:00 a.m., Jobe Hall Auditorium
- 2024 Athletics Hall of Fame Social and Banquet, April 5, 5:30 and 7:00 p.m., GRAMMY Museum Mississippi
- Presidential Admissions Tour, April 8-11
- Division of Student Affairs Awards, April 11, 7:00 p.m., BPAC
- Alumni Board and Foundation Board Meeting Luncheon, April 12, 12:00 p.m., Multipurpose Room, Young-Mauldin Cafeteria
- The Big Green Event, April 13, 7:00 a.m., McCool Stadium
- SACS-COC On-Site Visit, April 15-18
- William H. Young Student Outdoor Recreational Area Dedication Ceremony, April 19, 1:00 p.m., Volleyball Court behind Foundation Hall
- Retirement and Service Awards Ceremony, April 19, 2:30 p.m., State Room, H. L. Nowell Student Union
- Town Hall meeting, April 23, 3:00 p.m., Jacob Conference Center, Ewing Hall
- Bolivar County Alumni Cajun Seafood Boil, April 25, 5:30 p.m., Kent Wyatt Hall Parking Lot
- Athletics Green and White Awards, April 29, BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, April 22, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – FY25 Budget

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.