

DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY
PRESIDENT’S CABINET
Minutes

Meeting date: May 28, 2024

Members in attendance: Dr. Dan Ennis, Dr. Edwin Craft, Mr. David Gladden, Dr. Leslie Griffin, Ms. Amber Hays Mr. Shaun Kelly, Ms. Hayden Kirkhart, Dr. Eddie Lovin, Dr. Michelle Roberts, Ms. Ashley Tanksley, and Mr. Larry Wakefield (recorder – Ms. Jamie Claire Smith)

Members not in attendance: Mr. Mike Kinnison

Guests: None

Call to Order: A regular meeting of the President’s Cabinet was held in the President’s Conference Room on May 28, 2024. The meeting convened at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. Ennis presiding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

On motion by Dr. Eddie Lovin and seconded by Mr. Shaun Kelly, all Cabinet Members present and participating voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on May 13, 2024.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

- Dr. Ennis gave an overview of the activities and events of the last few weeks.
- Dr. Ennis shared with Cabinet members some of the events and activities for the week.

CABINET TOPIC

None

BUSINESS

Action

Annual Operating Budget for FY25..... Mr. Wakefield

Mr. Wakefield presented the annual operating budget for FY25 to Cabinet members for their review. The budget is due to IHL this week, and it will be on the June meeting agenda.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Wakefield to approve the Annual Operating Budget for FY25 and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion was approved.

Degree Completion Compensation – Non-Faculty policy (revised – final reading) Mr. Wakefield

Mr. Wakefield brought the Degree Completion Compensation- Non-Faculty policy to Cabinet for a final reading. The policy will financially award staff members who receive degrees related to their field of work. Award amounts have been updated and an Education Specialist Degree compensation has been

added. Dr. Ennis requested the policy go into effect July 1, 2024.

Motion: Moved by Mr. Wakefield to approve the Degree Completion Compensation- Non-Faculty policy for a final reading and seconded by Dr. Lovin.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Lovin to approve the Degree Completion Compensation – Non-Faculty policy for a final reading and adjust the effectiveness date to July 1, 2024, and seconded by Ms. Tanksley. The motion was approved.

Academic Transcripts policy (new – final reading) Dr. Griffin

On behalf of the Academic Council, Dr. Griffin brought the Academic Transcripts policy for a final reading. The academic transcript serves as a permanent record of a student's academic history at Delta State University. The policy covers official transcripts, unofficial transcripts, transcript fees, and compliance with federal regulations.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the Academic Transcript policy for a final reading and seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion was approved.

2025-2026 Academic Calendar Dr. Griffin

Dr. Griffin brought the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar to Cabinet for review.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Griffin to approve the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar and seconded by Mr. Kelly. The motion was approved.

Four-year Bond Plan Dr. Craft

Dr. Craft reviewed the Four-year Bond Plan and gave an overview of the Project Data Sheet for FY 2026 Facilities Needs Request. The priorities for the bond plan include renovation, updates, and demolition of campus residence halls; HVAC and electrical upgrades; and campus wide roofing.

Motion: Moved by Dr. Craft to approve the Four-year Bond Plan and seconded by Dr. Lovin. The motion was approved.

Discussion

Salary Increases Dr. Ennis

Dr. Ennis stated that employee contracts will be sent out with current salaries in July with the hope of raises going into effect by September. The Cabinet discussed options on how to implement the three percent raise for staff and faculty members. The new positions in Student Affairs will not be eligible for a raise, nor well as any employee who has recently received a raise or promotion. Cabinet members requested a timeline be put in place on what would qualify as a recent raise or promotion so there would be no misunderstanding among employees.

Gordian – Space Utilization Mr. Wakefield

Mr. Wakefield updated Cabinet members on the Gordian-Space Utilization firm that has been on Delta State’s campus reviewing equipment, infrastructure, and classroom space. This firm has been hired by IHL to review college campuses across the state.

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 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.

Academic Affairs requests

Dr. Griffin requested to search for and hire an Instructor of Assistant Professor of Economics, Director of Preschool Programs/Instructor in Family and Consumer Sciences, and a Line Service Technician.

Hiring Requests Approvals Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts gave an update on the hiring request that has been approved since the last Cabinet meeting.

Recruitment Update/Overview Ms. Tanksley

Ms. Tanksley updated Cabinet on recruitment efforts and enrollment trends. Admitted first time freshman students are up 17%, transfer students are up 3%, and graduate students are down 10% for Fall 2024. Fall Preview Day: Statesman Showcase will take place on September 7th. There are five Takin’ Care of Business days scheduled for this summer. Admissions is working to create a summer tour schedule to avoid the afternoon heat and working towards a Saturday morning tour option for interested students. The Admissions Advisory Committee has been established with constituents from across campus who will meet to discuss ideas for recruiting and future admissions events on campus. Cabinet members asked if there were ways for staff to help the Admissions team during the summer while the workload is low, and Ms. Tanksley assured Cabinet members that there are plenty of opportunities to assist with events this summer.

2024 Legislative Summary Dr. Roberts

Dr. Roberts and Dr. Ennis traveled to Washington, D.C. to visit with Mississippi’s Federal delegation. She gave an overview of their trip.

INFORMATIONAL/CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Summer Session 1 begins, May 28
- Sippin’ with the Statesmen in Leflore County, June 6, 5:30 p.m., Giardina’s
- 89th Annual Delta Council, June 7, BPAC

NEXT MEETING:

- Next Cabinet Meeting – Monday, June 24, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.
- Next Cabinet Meeting Topic – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.