

Delta State University
President Search Listening Session #1, 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 9, 2022
E.R. Job Hall
Cleveland, Mississippi

Minutes

Trustee Teresa Hubbard, chair of the Delta State University Board Search Committee, introduces members of committee and herself. Trustee Hal Parker is also on the committee but could not attend in person. He is participating via livestream and is the longest serving member of our board.

Trustee Hubbard introduces the Campus Search Advisory Constituency, which is comprised of faculty, staff, alumni, community members, and students.

Feedback from the DSU is very important to us. The IHL website has a microsite dedicated to the Delta State President search. You can follow search on Twitter. Online listening sessions survey will be available at the conclusion of the in person listening sessions (link will be available on the Delta State President search site).

Faculty member – Would like to see the next president have:

- Diligence in offering market and equity raises to faculty and staff who want to be at Delta State for the long haul.
 - Not only providing competitive pay packages to new faculty and staff
 - A loss of institutional wisdom is damaging the long-term health of this institution.
- “Invest in people, not programs.”
 - There are good people on campus who work here every day, and they are far worthier of investment than any number of any unproven, new quick fixes.
- Invest in us, listen to us, and most importantly heed our advice.

Student – Would like to see the next president:

- Understand the culture and what Delta State is trying to accomplish;
- Take pride in the Delta State, students, athletics, Greek life, and all organizations on campus;
- Value hard work and rewards it;

- A professional who is personable;
- Visit students around campus;
- Have good intentions to rebuild Delta State
- Think outside the box;
- Not afraid to step on toes of those who try to interfere with progress;
- Listen to students;
- Understand Delta State needs to be a desirable place to attend in order for students to want to come and stay here.
- Allow the university stand out for the right reasons;
- Utilize all creativity at Delta State in order to better the university, and
- Have a sole purpose of chasing a dollar.

Alumnus – Would like to see the next president:

- Have a good relationship with K12 schools in Cleveland;
- Have a great relationship with the Cleveland community and participate in community projects/events;
- Promote Delta State’s four specialty programs (DMI, Commercial Aviation, GIT, and Digital Media Arts) and be innovative in finding different ways to recruit students for these programs;
- Promote Greek life.

Administrator – Would like to see the next president:

- Develop strong community ties, and;
- Have higher education experience.

Faculty member – Would like to see the next president:

- Be community-minded;
- Listens to and embraces community members;
- Understand students are the heart and soul of the university.

Staff member – Would like to see the next president:

- Exhibit humility;
- Understand the needs of students;
- Understand the needs of faculty and staff as they support students.

Staff member – Would like to see the next president:

- Know the position of president is not for political gain or personal growth;
- Know the position of president to help educate students, along with faculty and staff, and to prepare students to be great members of society;
- Help push past barriers to make Delta State better.

Elected Official and Alumnus – Would like to see the next president:

- Invested in the City of Cleveland;
- Understands the City of Cleveland:
 - Cleveland is only as good as Delta State, and Delta State is only as good as Cleveland.
- Be a great listener;
- Have a humble heart;
- Be the largest fundraiser for the university

Faculty member – Would like to see the next president:

- Enhance recruitment of international students.

Former Administrator – Would like to see the next president:

- Focus on campus programs with high demand jobs e.g. pilots, nurses, teachers, digital media professionals;
- Be visionary;
- Be a good listener;
- Take time to visit constituencies on campus.

Student – Would like to see the next president:

- understand the value international students bring to Delta State;
- Help retain international students and make them feel valued;
- understand other's cultures and be able to interact with them;
- Recruit for Delta State

Student – Would like to see the next president:

- Have a passion for students:
 - Students should feel comfortable approaching the president.

Student – Would like to see the next president:

- Interact with Athletics:
 - Get to know coaches and players on a personal level;
 - Attend games of all sports.

Student – Would like to see the next president:

- Connect with all student organizations on campus;
- Be versatile and adapt to new situations easily;
- Understand the university culture;
- Create a vision for the university shared by all constituent groups.

Search Advisory Constituency member –

- Encouraged all to call committee members if they have any questions.