

Delta State University
President Search Listening Session #2, 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 9, 2022
Jobe Hall Auditorium, E.R. Jobe Hall
Cleveland, MS

Minutes

Trustee Teresa Hubbard, chair of the search committee for President of Delta State University (DSU), gave opening remarks that included the introduction of fellow committee members and Search Advisory Constituency (SAC) that were present. Ms. Hubbard's remarks include the following:

Indicated a desire to have input from all attendees regarding the qualities and qualifications in the selection of DSU's next president.

Noted that feedback is very important to search, mentioned microsite at www.mississippi.edu to view DSU President Search process or can follow on Twitter @DSU_Search.

Noted that for those unable to attend or who preferred not to speak at the session, they can provide input in the president search process online at www.mississippi.edu.

Survey will be offered at end of listening sessions on DSU President Search microsite.

Provided information about how to verbally provide input at the listening sessions; noted microphones at front of room, also that there was no set limit for comments, that those making comments should be considerate of others wanting to make comments during the length of the session (90 minutes).

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Understand and recognize the history of Delta State and sees its importance:
 - “If we do not learn form history, we are destined to repeat it.”
- Recognize the value of history and importance of archives and the history of museums on campus and in community.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Care about academics and ensure all students are provided with the best education;
- Allow every faculty member to share their knowledge with their students;

- Ensure all students (athletes, members of student government, Greek life, student organizations, every race, every ethnicity, all sexualities, all religious affiliations, and all nationalities) have the opportunity to have a voice and join in and stand out;
- Ensure organizations are properly funded;
- Help bring success, accolades, and honor to Delta State;
- Ensure faculty and staff are fairly represented, respected, and properly paid
- Be a leader, exhibit good strength and character in the face of adversity, and lead Delta State to a brighter tomorrow.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Involved with the student body;
- Attend events on campus;
- Involved with and cares for the local community.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Actively engage with students;
- Helps the university build new traditions.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Be involved in campus and community activities;
- Be involved in athletic events;
- Know what a day in the life of a Delta State student looks like.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Acknowledge the importance of Greek life and the Department of Commercial Aviation, and help promote both areas.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Value involvement;
- Values all clubs and organizations no matter size on campus.
- Know all majors available at Delta State;
- Be visible to all; be the face of Delta State.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Be involved in all aspects of the university;
- Ensure students, faculty, and staff feel safe on campus;
- Ensure all students have an outlet and/or a way to engage to help increase engagement and retention.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Engage with students;
- Care about each student individually and collectively;
- Govern/lead Delta State as a university not solely a business.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Have a vision for Delta State;
- Know the university's strengths and weaknesses and have a plan to change weaknesses into positives;
- Prioritize students;
- Be present at events;
- Effectively communicate with faculty, staff, and students about decisions made for the university and changes that are to be made.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Diversify the university (race, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, etc.);
- Concentrate on outreach to underserved students in the Mississippi Delta that may not be able to pursue higher education.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Support students – especially those in Greek life;
- Listen to students and develops relationships with them;
- Be dedicated to the growth and development of the university.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Be willing to respond to students through email and meet with them in person;
- Attend student-led events and athletic events;
- Be approachable by all.

Alumnus – would like to see the next president:

- Have institutional knowledge about Delta State;
- Have a background in higher education and academia;
- Have ties to Delta State and Cleveland;
- Be accessible;
- Be visible on campus;
- Interact with students;
- Surround themselves with knowledgeable people;

- Have good character, be humble, admits when wrong, be a good listener;
- Focus on the enrollment and admissions process of Delta State;
- Promote Delta State.

Staff member– would like to see the next president:

- Interact with students;
- Have a vision on how best to lead Delta State into the future.

Staff member – Would like to see the next president:

- Involved with students, sees them as individuals, and understands that the students are the reason/purpose for faculty and staff being at Delta State;
- Have a student-mindset; not a business-mindset;
- Understand staff contributions are equal to faculty contributions;
- Realize staff need support and resources to do their job well.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Understand the role of professors; they are just as important as students;
 - Students do not want to stay enrolled without good professors to learn from.
- Increase salary of professors;
- Publicly acknowledge the accolades of professors.

Student – would like to see the next president:

- Be committed;
- Acknowledge problems;
- Begin a leadership program to help lead students into becoming one student body not separated into different groups.

Retired Administrator and Alumna – would like to see the next president:

- Have a proven track record of excellence in academic/administrative leadership;
- Be a visionary, have the ability to shape and lead the school, and get others on board with their vision;
- Lead by example, has profound commitment to DSU, and has the desire, fortitude, vision, and the ability to position this University for success.
- Be a strong communicator;
- Bring key stakeholders together;
- Be a person of integrity;
- Have the ability to make hard decisions and stand with hard decisions when made;

- Empower and motivate others;
- Be a crisis manager and have well developed political and diplomatic skills;
- Have experience working with alumni to engage them with the life of the university;
- Know Delta State as whole;
- Be ready to lead upon arrival;
- Live Delta State, love Delta State, and lead Delta State.

Staff – would like to see the next president:

- Lift morale of Delta State employees and community members.

Student – would like to see the new president:

- Support all students;
- Ensure all students feel supported and acknowledged.

Alumnus – would like to see the new president:

- Be a great recruiter to help with enrollment problems;
- Provide strategies on how to focus on Mississippi and surrounding area in recruiting;
- Encourage current students to help in the recruitment process;
- Be a good fundraiser to help the university be financially stable and sustainable;
- Focus on alumni relations;
- Focus on faculty and staff.

Alumna – would like to see the next president:

- Humble, respected, visible on campus, and approachable;
- Be able to call students personally and solve issues not resolved solved by other areas of the university;
- Be respected by faculty and staff;
- Bring people together.

Alumnus – would like to see the next president:

- Invest in the City of Cleveland;
- Be a good listener;
- Want to be in this position for a long time.

Administrator – would like to see the next president:

- Know who they are and understand their weaknesses;

- Create a team to take up gaps that they cannot fill, knows who they are personally and professionally, and surrounds themselves with individuals who can help with weaknesses.

Faculty member – would like to see the next president:

- Improve the image of Delta State.

Ms. Hubbard thanked people for attending and providing thoughtful and helpful comments. Reminded people that the website will have updates available. Concluded session at 1:43 p.m.