

President's Cabinet Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2023

1. Chief Wright/Safety Training: Chief Wright announced that the Roane County campus will host federal ALERRT (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Team), training August 7-8. This training will take place in the O'Brien Building. This training teaches officers how to clear rooms during an active shooter situation and, more importantly, how to work as a team – even if the officers do not know each other. Twelve slots have been allotted to RSCC, which should get all of our officers trained. Chief Wright hopes to be able to offer three remaining slots to external partners, especially from Rockwood, since they are the closest to respond in an emergency situation. This is basic, level one training which we could follow with train-the-trainer and single officer training for external agencies. Chief Wright will work with Teresa Duncan for opportunities to use this kind of training for workforce hours. Marsha Mathews asked Chief Wright to review our firearms on campus policy to make sure we have the option for special circumstance waivers for weapons for such training, paintball, nerfball, etc. Dr. Whaley pointed out that Chancellor Tydings has prioritized the need for emergency drills for faculty, staff, and students. Chief Wright reiterated the importance of these drills as a way to determine what is working and what needs correction/improvement in process and infrastructure.

Chief Wright also announced that there will be a 4-hour table-top exercise September 20 from 8:00 – 12:00 in the Raider Room. He would like to schedule an internal meeting prior to this exercise which will include external partners. Additional table-tops will be scheduled (February 2024 in Oak Ridge) with different scenarios in addition to active shooter. For example, Cumberland County might feature a tornado situation; another satellite campus might do hazardous materials, etc.

Diane Ward asked if the Chief thought we should schedule specialized, active training for faculty. Chief gave an example of a scenario that demonstrates how difficult it is to actually hear gunshots during a “blank shot drill” that he did for Rockwood High School. He also noted that Matt Waters could film some scenarios with our simulator and/or live in the classroom. Some training will be planned for the Saturday Adjunct Faculty Workshop and, perhaps, a two-hour slot during In-Service week.

President Whaley noted that the Mayor of Lenoir City has plans to renovate a building for law enforcement training, and Teresa Duncan noted the training opportunities through ORETTTC in Oak Ridge.

2. “Tik-Tok” Law: In the wake of Governor Lee signing a bill prohibiting higher education institutions from providing access to websites owned and operated by China, IT has updated/blocked the firewall and wireless. Public Relations will send our communication about the change.
3. PA-22-02 Academic Freedom and Responsibility Policy: Dr. Ward has conferred with TBR legal counsel, and this policy now meets all requirements for approval.