

President's Cabinet Meeting Minutes

August 28, 2023

1. Student Guest: Learning Support Math Specialist, Larry Sather, introduced student guest, Troy Holt. Troy is a non-traditional student who spent 10 years in the Air Force and has done multiple factory jobs. He is here on a Reconnect grant and is majoring in social work. Dr. Ward will reach out to tell him about some transfer pathways that will allow him to complete his Bachelor's degree close to home. He is grateful for the flexibility that Reconnect affords him to enroll part-time, which allows him the time to care for his mother and brother in addition to his studies. He loves the instructors that he has had, including Larry Sather, Abby Schoolfield, and Elizabeth Genovise. Troy stated that the Learning Support pre-Statistics course was extremely helpful in giving him the foundation to be successful in the college level Statistics course. He encouraged Roane State to make more students aware of the value of the Learning Support course. Troy mentioned that he has taken some classes with RSCC athletes and would like to attend some of their games. He is aware of police presence on campus, finds the classroom temperature comfortable – and the food good at the Raider Café. His suggestions for recruiting more adults are to use student testimonials on social media to raise awareness of the benefits of the Reconnect program.
2. GIVE Grant 3.0: Teresa Duncan gave an update from a recent meeting regarding the pending announcement for GIVE grants. She reported on three potential opportunities: 1.) Paramedic Program for the new Fentress County campus; 2.) partnering with TCAT/Campbell Co (they would be lead) for LPN to RN; 3.) taking over the Dream It/Do It program from the Anderson County Chamber of Commerce. This would likely be a partnership with TCAT/Knoxville to team middle school and/or high school students with area companies to explore a whole range of jobs. Student teams would then enter into competition with videos that they create about these jobs. The program could be housed at the Chamber, and we would ask for funding for someone to run it.
3. Policy BA-06-01 Motor Vehicles: Marsha Mathews asked to defer approval of this policy until additional revisions/updates could be made to the language related to accident regulations.
4. Enrollment Update: Jamie Stringer reported that headcount enrollment is up 5% without dual enrollment/Middle College and 8% with dual and middle. The final purge for non-payment will take place tonight, but it is not expected to impact a large number of students. Jamie pointed out that this cohort of new students is exceptionally fragile, and counseling and disability needs are doubled and more. Jamie also noted that his team got some good ideas for recruiting adults from the recent Noel Levitz conference they attended. Dr. Whaley wants to revisit the Noel Levitz report to determine next steps.
5. Fentress County Groundbreaking: The groundbreaking has been scheduled for October 25 at 10:00 a.m. Central Time. Until a new site director is hired, Teresa asked Tamsin to connect with Carolyn Brewer (Fentress Technical Clerk), Andy Spellman, and her about the event. The new street address will be 823 Old Highway 127S, Jamestown, TN, 38556. The Chancellor will be attending. It was suggested that students from the new Middle College cohort be invited.

6. Legislative Luncheon Update: A new date has been set for the luncheon since the previous date conflicted with Veteran's Day events. The luncheon will take place on November 13, from 11:00 – 1:00 Eastern Time at the Oak Ridge Campus. Dr. Whaley would like to highlight the need for more scholarship funding for Mechatronics Middle College and Roane State's plans for Nuclear Technology programming. Bill Tindall will be invited to attend since he has been serving as Roane State's technical expert and advisory board member for nuclear.
7. Nuclear Technology Program Update: A meeting was held last week with state economic development personnel, Oak Ridge nuclear industry representatives, and RSCC personnel. Participants, including advisor Bill Tindal, discussed the planned curriculum and the need to market the entire nuclear industry in such a way that the messaging addresses fears associated with nuclear. Marsha noted that she has previously submitted a disclosed future project to TBR that will need to be updated. This facility would be on the Oak Ridge Campus and would be an "Energy & Science Institute." We need updated square footage and estimated dollar amounts for new equipment for such a facility. This will likely require an update to Roane State's Master Plan.
8. Knox Campus Update: Utility inspection is still needed before Johnson and Galyon can begin construction. Tamsin will reach out to TBR to get an estimated start date.
9. COVID Update: There has been an uptick in COVID cases. Don Conley indicated that the average for our service area is still low, averaging 5 cases per 100,000. CDC guidance calls for individuals to quarantine for 5 days after a positive test or onset of symptoms; then 5 days using a mask outside of quarantine. Sarah will update the website with this information.
10. Athletics Update: Roane State has hired Marty McDaniel as head softball coach. McDaniel was pitching coach for UT/K for 16 years and has been pitching coach for Georgia Tech for the last 7 years. He will be bringing Ashley Rogers with him as pitching coach for RSCC. The news has already started generating interest in recruits. Marsha also has a meeting scheduled this week to discuss prep for the new soccer field.
11. Spring Convocation: Convocation is scheduled for January 9, 2024. Dr. Karen Stout, CEO of Achieving the Dream, will be our keynote speaker. Dr. Whaley wants to be able to plan for as many faculty and staff to attend as possible.
12. TBR SOAR Awards: Awards nominations are due to TBR by October 6, 2023. RSCC's faculty nominee is Julie Hall, Radiologic Technology program director, and administrator nominee is Aaron Jones, Director of Middle College. We are still determining a student nominee. A suggestion was made that Troy Holt would be a great candidate.