

President's Cabinet Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2023

1. Student Guests: Holly Hanson introduced Monica Brown and Amanda McKnight. Both are recipients of funding from the USDOL WORC grant to pay for non-credit courses offered through the Cumberland Business Incubator. Mike Eppler, WORC Grant project director also joined the meeting. Monica graduated from Roane State in the 2+2 education program and went on to get her teaching degree from TN Technological University. After teaching for five years, she went into therapeutic social work and recruited and taught foster parents. She went on to get a Master's degree in Business Administration from Western Governors University. She currently owns SPECHT Farms, the largest sheet producer in the area, and will take over ownership and operation of Fentress County Farm and Home store on September 1. She used her WORC grant funds to pay for a QuickBooks class as well as a class in financial management. She had high praise for the help she received from Holly for filling out the application for an LLC, building a website, and much more. Amanda is the owner of Southern Sirens, a company that does on-site hair and makeup for brides. She and her team of seven stylists take their "show on the road," primarily in the Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge area. She used WORC grant funds for course in QuickBooks, Marketing, and met with Holly for one-on-one coaching. She and her team will be opening another salon in Knoxville, September 1, 2023. Both ladies said the best thing about Roane State and the program is the excellence of the faculty, who were not only knowledgeable, but also friendly and approachable to answer any questions they had. Their ideas for improvement included more classes at other campuses and a class in social media marketing. Both stated that the courses made possible by the WORC grant and the coaching from Holly Hanson had really helped them gain confidence to grow their businesses.
2. Faculty Evaluation Policy: PA-26-02: Diane Ward explained that revisions made to the policy to align with the updated tenure policy have been vetted by the Faculty Senate. The revisions were approved.
3. Enrollment Update: Jamie Stringer reported that we are currently up 5.5% in headcount. A purge for non-payment is scheduled for Wednesday. The goal is to work that list down to 80 or fewer students.
4. Retiree Email Update: Keri Phillips will send out an email and a letter to retirees informing them of the requirement to provide the college with a personal email by December 1, 2023 since they can no longer retain their RSCC email. A Q&A Zoom meeting for retirees has been scheduled for October 3rd at 10:00 a.m. The link for the meeting will be included in the correspondence. Sarah Self will create a retiree distribution list to send the Communicator, Just a Minute, etc. For now, Emeritus faculty can retain their RSCC email; however, they must do all of the mandatory trainings.
5. Academic Festival: The Academic Festival will take place on Friday, March 22, 2024. Tammy Howard, Director of High School Partnerships, will be the major coordinator for the event. The event is returning not only as a recruiting opportunity, but also as a way to celebrate academic competition and achievement. "Save the Dates" have been sent to area high schools. Tammy reported that some competitions will be new; some revamped. There will be activities to fill the idle time between competitions, such as a

campus scavenger hunt, and a “cupcake war” decorating contest. Tammy is hoping to bring back the T-Shirt design art competition and get a sponsor for T-shirts. She will be meeting with the faculty competition chairs to decide on a theme.

6. 2023 Latino Awards Banquet: Centro Hispano of Knoxville’s Annual gala is scheduled for October 5, 2023 at the Mill and Stream in downtown Knoxville from 4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Foundation has a table of eight. Scott Niermann is the contact for attendance.
7. Legislative Luncheon Update: Dr. Whaley indicated that Senator McNally and Senator Yager would prefer to schedule the luncheon prior to the beginning of the legislative session. The event will take place in Oak Ridge (place to be determined) on November 10 at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Whaley suggested that the focus be on Nuclear Technology, since there is great interest in the large pool of state dollars to be targeted to nuclear programs. He also suggested that we invite students from the Mechatronics Middle College program, since state funding has been reduced for that program.
8. Knox County Project Update: The contractor is waiting for utility (water and sewer) inspection in order to be able to break ground. Tamsin Miller will reach out to TBR to determine next steps. The City of Knoxville has to provide a sign permit number in order to erect the sign which has been built. Victoria Battershell, Sim Center Director, is working on initial accreditation for the center and has visited the new center at Carson Newman. Dr. Whaley and Scott Niermann are scheduled to attend the Knox County Commission work session tonight for one of the first gifts of the campaign.
9. Cumberland County Project Update: Tamsin reported that the footers are almost complete. The building naming request will be submitted at the December TBR meeting.
10. Fentress County Project Update: Groundbreaking for the new campus will be October 25, 2023. The signature program will be Paramedic (with EMT offered by the TCAT). The design development phase should be completed in the next two weeks, and Sarah Self is working on signage for the campus.
11. Street Painting Festival: This year’s festival will be September 23, 2023 and will return to the Oak Ridge Campus.