

## President's Cabinet Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2025

1. Student Guest: Jamie Stringer introduced Carter Massengill, a Cyber Defense major from Roane County who works with Quita Zerr as a student recruiter. He is considering going to work immediately upon graduation or entering the military. He chose Roane State because he knew he would have the flexibility to work and go to school at the same time without incurring debt. He stated that he makes this part of his recruitment pitch to prospective students. He continued saying that the low student to faculty ratio is one of the most valuable things about Roane State. He noted that it would be helpful for instructors to make sure students know the specific way that they have organized their course in Momentum to make it easier for students to navigate. He also noted that students his age are obsessed with the cost of living, so he always tries to stress the value of utilizing TN Promise to start their postsecondary journey.
2. ARC Grant: Karen Brunner introduced grants specialist, Deb Miller, to give an overview of a proposal being developed for a grant to be submitted to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to expand programming in Nuclear Technology, Chemical Engineering Technology, and Environmental Health Technology. The grant could fund equipment, curriculum development, and adjunct faculty. There is a match requirement that could be as much as 30%-40%; however, our current federal grants could be used as match.
3. TBR Meeting Update: Dr. Whaley asked the Foundation to reach out to John Brown to get copies of his book depicting the history of Roane State to include with the gift bags to the Chancellor and the regents. In other updates, President Chris Ayers has asked to sponsor the boxed lunches for Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Governor Lee will be in Knoxville on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> for another event in the morning, so we will ask Lt. Governor McNally to see if Lee would be available to also attend our ribbon cutting.
4. Software Purchases: Keri Phillips and Marsha Mathews discussed the multiple reviews needed before software purchases (or any other contracts involving sensitive data) can be made. Keri is working on developing a form to make these reviews more automatic and easier to monitor. Karen Brunner suggested that a check list of all potential required forms and assurances should be created that requestors can use when seeking a contract with a third-party vendor.
5. Enrollment Update: Jamie Stringer reported that enrollment is up 7% overall with dual enrollment still coming in. Roane State currently leads the TBR community colleges in enrollment of first-time freshmen. The second purge is scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>.

6. Other Updates:

- a. The email announcing annual required employee training will go out this week with a shortened four-week window for completion.
- b. Big Slate Media will be on the Roane County campus to shoot video content for September.
- c. TCAT Knoxville has agreed to share the cost of an updated billboard on I-40. It should go up before the TBR meeting.
- d. On Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be a signing for a 2+2 agreement between ORNL, TTU, and RSCC for project management as a concentration in TTU's Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies program.