

President's Cabinet Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2022

1. Student Need: Kat Baker and Lisa Steffensen updated Cabinet on the impact of inflation and high gas prices on students. Kat had polled the success coaches and found that almost all of them are working with students who are requesting to change their schedules to avoid driving or minimize/optimize time spent on campus. Some students are prioritizing work and/or gas money for commuting to work over coming to school. The coaches are working to re-arrange students' schedules; however, students with Learning Support requirements don't always have an online option. Coaches are also sending students to need@roanestate.edu so Lisa Steffensen and the Foundation can help with emergency aid. While Lisa stated that the Foundation has been great at helping her arrange for emergency aid, students who access the \$500 allotment this summer would not be eligible for assistance this fall. Randy Waggoner is working with the Tennessee Justice Center to train to be able to help students apply for SNAP benefits. Once eligible for SNAP, students have access to additional resources. Lisa is working on plans for a breakfast program modeled after a similar program at Ozark Technical and Community College. She will work with the cafeteria vendor in Roane County and Oak Ridge to pilot the program and work with Jennifer Fugate and Mike Hill to arrange for activities and study assistance during the breakfast program hours. Additionally, the food pantry in Roane County will have open hours daily, including Friday, to encourage walk-ins. Teresa Duncan noted that traffic at the Oak Ridge campus increased substantially after some faculty brought their classes for a tour of the pantry. A stronger social media presence is needed to raise awareness about the three food pantries, and Lisa noted that research shows repetition helps. Kat also mentioned the need for better campus spaces where students can spend time between classes and avoid having to drive and come back. Tinisha Key is helping compile information from all campuses about available spaces and activities for students. In the works are coffee bars at all campuses.
2. Knox Campus Update: It has been determined that infrastructure for a potential 4th floor would be cost prohibitive, so plans for the facility will need to accommodate a future horizontal expansion. This would reduce parking, so fundraising may have to include a possible future parking garage.
3. A separate discussion by the Budget Committee resulted in decisions regarding the 4% salary pool appropriated by the General Assemble and increases for temporary employees currently making under 15\$ per hour. These decisions were communicated to Administrative Council at the 10:00 meeting following the Cabinet.
4. Alternative Work Policy: Cabinet also discussed the newly approved TBR policy on alternate and remote work arrangements and followed with a discussion at Administrative Council.