

President's Cabinet Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2022

President's Cabinet met at the Loudon County campus.

1. Enrollment Update: Headcount is up 3.4% HC/1.7% FTE. Increases continue to be confined to dual enrollment and new high school graduates. Adult enrollment is down as well as continuing students. Cabinet discussed the need to plan for an aggressive recruitment plan for 2023. This plan will require participation by site directors and program directors as well as enrollment management staff. Recruiting "kits" will be put together for these individuals – as well as any others who can help with the effort.
2. Middle College funding update: TBR has still not provided guidance regarding recommended methods for institutions to deal with costs not covered by the new grant funds, since the perception is that Middle College is now free. Marsha Mathews indicated that institutional funds could cover any overage for tuition, but that we would need the Foundation to assist with additional fees, books, etc.
3. Convocation Update: Convocation is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10. Institutional updates will be first on the agenda followed by legal updates. RSCC General Counsel, Beth Martin, will be on campus and she will provide a video presentation by TBR Chief Counsel, Brian Lapps, regarding the subject of divisive concepts legislation. Convocation will end with honors and special recognitions.
4. Lenoir City Parklet: Cabinet members met with the Lenoir City Mayor Tony Aikens and City Administrator, Amber Kelso about the parklet which is adjacent to the RSCC Loudon campus building. Currently, the area has picnic tables in the brick courtyard. Amber reported that plans for enhancement include an arch to designate the spot as part of historic downtown Lenoir City, a portable stage for events, as well as lighting and audio equipment. The Mayor asked RSCC to identify faculty and other staff that can join the advisory committee to help design elements of the expansion that would create an outdoor classroom space.
5. Project Calypso: TBR has created a concept paper for a new initiative to elevate, add relevance, and more deeply connect the community college experience to the workforce of the future. Colleges are asked to consider participation in a 3-yr funded project to "re-imagine" the community college experience. This initiative would provide students extensive pre-college career exploration, the attainment of a workforce-focused certificate in the first semester aligned with the local/regional economy, a transition into the second semester that extends workforce-ready skills and/or contextualized general education courses to a student's program of study, and re-engineered pathways that stack these first-year skills into AA/AS/AAS degrees and/or TCAT programs. A letter of intent to participate is due August 8 and applications are due September 12. Cabinet decided to submit a letter of intent. This does not commit the college to submitting a proposal; however, it will give us the opportunity to consider planning for a pilot.