

Roane State Community College
Faculty Senate Minutes from February 13, 2026
2pm EST, Oak Ridge Branch Campus, City Room

ATTENDANCE

Officers

Darren York, President

Jala Daniel, Vice-President

Stacie Bradshaw, Secretary and Senator

Steven Carriger, Parliamentarian & Senator

Krystie Anderson, TBR Faculty Sub-Council Representative & Senator

Senators

Humanities

Robert Alfonso, Krystie Anderson, Matthew McDonald, Ralph Monday, DeAnna Stephens, & Myndalynn Word (adjunct representative)

Social Science, Business & Education

Stacie Bradshaw, Steven Carriger, Jessica Dalton-Carriger, Jenny Stowe, & Mike Farmer

Math/Science

Isabel Benitez-Ramierz, Keenan Golder, Pamela Siergiej, & Scott Jamison (adjunct representative)

Health Sciences

Blake Morris, Ricky Terwilliger, & Vicky Winston

Visitors

Justin Eastwood (library)

Meeting Minutes

- I. Quorum Established at 2:02pm EST
- II. Minutes from January meeting were approved with no changes.
- III. TBR Faculty Sub-Council Update: Krysten Anderson

- a. No update

IV. Old Business

- a. Employee Assistance Fund Update

- i. No discussion

- b. Benroth Update

- i. Voting opened the morning of the senate meeting at 8am and is scheduled to close on 2/20/26 at 10am EST
 - ii. Email was sent out and people who did not want to be nominated was sent to IR so they were not included on the voting
 - iii. There was a discussion on what the Benroth Award was and how it was designed to promote and encourage good teaching
 - 1. RSCC's highest award for faculty
 - iv. New platform was used for voting- Question Pro

- c. Graduation Logistics Update

- i. They are working to make sure that the new way we are planning graduation is the best we can do
 - ii. If you have questions, please let the committee know
 - iii. If you cannot attend graduation, you to need to discuss with your dean

V. New Business

- a. Roane State Budget Hearings

- i. Budget hearings are quickly approaching later in the spring (after spring break)
 - ii. RSCC is in a growth mindset; this means money will be going to things and programs that have never existed before

- b. State (TBR) Budget

- i. RSCC seems to be in good standing
 - ii. Due to the new programs, we could see an increase in our budget, but this is not a guarantee
 - iii. Dr. Whaley will keep us updated on this

- c. Mental Health Crisis: State and National Implications

- i. Mental health crisis has gotten worse in recent years
 - ii. Question raised: Could we get funding to help increase the number of counselors available?

- d. VP Brunner and Upcoming Support

- i. World Cafe will be held right after the Academic Festival on March 27th
 - ii. Faculty are required to be a part of this event- lunch will be served

- iii. Faculty are encouraged to be honest and to speak up and make this time count
 - iv. Concern that was brought up: Those who live further away from the Roane County campus
 - v. Anticipate that it will probably last until 4:30pm EST
- e. Syllabus Templates
 - i. The template was taken back to Gen Ed and a copy of what Gen Ed voted on was provided
 - ii. When it comes to the icons- half of the schools are using them and the other are not and those who do use them use the simple syllabus program
 - iii. Discussion was open on thoughts
 - iv. The SharePoint will be dismantled and a word document will be created and will be posted on the Faculty Senate webpage
- f. Faculty Senate Elections
 - i. These are coming up and divisions have submitted nominees for elections
 - ii. Nomination period for President and VP in February
 - iii. Voting takes place in March, after Spring Break
 - iv. Secretary will draft email to send to faculty
- g. CTAT
 - i. CTAT is interviewing currently and looking at resumes
 - ii. It is the understanding at this time that they would like to hire two people if they can get two good candidates

VI. Received Emails- FS Inbox

- a. Pending TBR Policies/TN State Legislation
 - i. There are some bills in Nashville right now regarding tenure for faculty
 - ii. Faculty have been asked to not “overreact” to these bills at this time
 - iii. Multiple discussions are taking place on these bills
 - iv. Dr. Whaley did address this in the President’s Forum and does not seem to be concerned
 - v. Bill topics
 - 1. Getting rid of tenure- those who have tenure currently will be grandfathered in
 - 2. Continuing to grant tenure, but making it easier to terminate for misconduct
 - 3. Administrative leave option
- b. Weather Protocols

- i. An email was sent on how to handle classes that run in non-traditional platforms
- ii. There is a weather page on the RSCC website
 - 1. Concern: Inclement weather statement in the syllabus does not match the webpage, which was updated in February 2026 with no communication to faculty on this change
 - 2. Motion was carried to reflect class start times on the weather webpage when campus opens late, and that faculty and students cannot enter the buildings until that time.
 - a. These will be taken to administration to address the difference between the syllabus and the webpage on inclement weather

VII. Meeting adjourned at 3:21pm EST