

Minutes
Veterans Action Committee Meeting
November 18, 2013, 3:30 – 4:30 pm
Mt. Bailey/Thielson

Attendees: Nigel Bliss, Barb Conner, Joseph Maurer, Jeff Parady, Stephen Schultz, Rob Shaffer, Nellie Stewart, Carl Thomas, Whitney Witherspoon

Absent: Casey Coulson, Max Crismon, AJ Davila, Joseph Miranda, Tyler Pinson, David Thaemert

Updates

- Steve Schultz nominated Jeff Parady as new Chair for the Veterans Action Committee. Barb Conner, Second, All in Favor.
- Casey Coulson could not attend the meeting and sent Nigel Bliss in his place to report on OVA: Veteran's Day activities went well. OVA members were part of a Float in the downtown parade and served breakfast at Quail Park.
- The Veteran's conference was well attended with good presentation and discussion topics. Miss Oregon participated as well. OVA would like to see a Mandatory Faculty Session take place each year. There were a few negative comments that should be addressed through materials and presentations so faculty can be aware of veterans in the classroom.
- A shout out to all Veterans took place during the Basketball game. President Maples hosted a breakfast on campus for veterans on Tuesday, November 12 with good attendance.
- The OVA is creating a schedule with weekly hours that the Lounge will be open with someone there to help out veterans. Whitney Witherspoon sends out an e-mail to all those veteran's receiving benefits. A Tech News Daily announcement will also be posted.
- All Faculty Advisors will be given the Klamath Falls Veteran's Resources book for reference.
- ACAD 207 did not go through as planned for Fall 2013. VA Benefits will not pay for the course because it does not go into the curriculum map as a needed course to graduate. The VA is very particular and the process to get around this is very cumbersome: a student would have to have an advisor sign a form that says the class is needed for their major to graduate and then the VA will approve to pay for it. The VAC group talked through many different ideas and scenarios. One that stuck was that we could offer the class for free, at least to start it up. We would have to have President Maples approve this.
- The next Yellow Ribbon event will be January 25 and 26, destination unknown until closer to the date of the event. There will also be one in April, June and August. Steve Schultz plans to attend all but August and the National Guard will pay his way! Great work and Thank You Steve!

- HB2158 has passed.

HB 2158 section 1.ORS 352.378

A public university listed in ORS 352.002 or community college shall charge an enrolled student who is not a resident of this state, and who is attending classes as an undergraduate on a public university or community college campus in this state, tuition and fees no greater than the resident rate if the student:

- A. Served in the armed forces of the United States; and
- B. Was relieved or discharged from that service with either an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions; and
- C. Provides proof that the student has established a physical presence in Oregon within 12 months of being enrolled at the public university or community college.

- The Non-Traditional/Veteran Session that took place during New Student Orientation brought 15-20 new students with good conversation. Next year, place this meeting into a room with refreshments for a better environment.
- Barb Conner would like this group to put together a calendar of yearly things, events, happenings, deadlines, everything OVA for a “Yearly Glance”.
- The VAC group would like to look at the committee’s mission and goals, establish correct membership, and schedule meetings monthly.

Next Meeting

Nellie Stewart will schedule the next meeting during the first or second week of Winter term after looking at everyone’s class schedules.

Written by Nellie Stewart