

MINUTES

Veterans Action Committee Meeting October 23, 2014, 9:00 – 10:00 am SA conference room

Attendees: Jeff Pardy, Steve Schultz, David Thaemert, Whitney Witherspoon, Barb Conner, Tyler Pinson, Rob Shaffer, and Nigel Bliss.

Absent: Carl Thomas, Nellie Stewart.

Updates

- The OVA postcard was discussed and was thought to be better advertised through OOHLALA App and to have a stack in the OVA lounge, at events, and during new student orientations. The OVA felt that most students would treat it as spam mail and if physically mailed it would not be a good return on investment. The OVA did state, however, that the OOHLALA site needs to be updated. The list obtained identifying veteran students was another concern in respects to privacy (FERPA), although the list of these students will still be used for reporting veteran success that is mandatory for institutional reporting.
- The OVA update includes two positions to be opened in the OVA lounge that is goal oriented in nature. The breakfast with President Maples will be occurring Monday, November 10, 7:00 am - 9:00 am in Mt. Mazama. The OVA states they would like to continue doing the Laser Tag event this year. Winter coats that are in the OVA lounge may be donated so communicate to veteran students who may want a warm jacket for this winter that's around the corner. The OVA states they will be involved in the charity "Toy's for Tot's" this year. Further updates include Wilsonville campus for Oregon Tech is expressing an interest in starting a Veterans club and after establishment, Klamath Falls campus would like to work with them to build alliances and a veterans club as well. There's a feeling it will be successful as 30 interested veterans had attended the initial meeting in Wilsonville. A concern that the OVA had was not having the ability to use military courses and experiences to be used for applying credits at Oregon Tech, whereas other colleges do accept them. The OVA was assured that the VAC would look into how we might be able to change this policy at Oregon Tech.
- The Yellow Ribbon Event is tomorrow and Steve Schultz states that the focus on this ceremony is to promote immunizations for influenza as there is a concern that the Ebola virus is distracting the general public from an annual seasonal virus that kills thousands every year.
- New student orientation reported by Whitney Witherspoon said that they had gone well with Steven Schultz, David Thaemert, and Jeff Pardy present to discuss veteran student needs. The veteran students were taken to the OVA lounge to be familiar with what they have to offer as well as their location.
- ACAD progress includes contact with Greg Walden's office stating further needs to get Veteran Administration approval would include a letter from senior administration official(s) from Oregon Tech. It was suggested that Di Saunders of AVP communications and marketing could

help move this process forward by just giving her the same letter that was sent to Oregon State Representatives.

- The VAC would like to create a calendar that will help with OVA events and extra-curricular activities to become more organized, fluent, and on time. Examples used were some events canceled due to loss of focus and the Iron Owl not meeting expectations of others. This attempt could be possibly managed by the events coordinator mentioned at the meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 4, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, Sunset

Written by Jeff Pardy