

MINUTES

Veterans Action Committee Meeting April 25, 2014, 10:00 – 11:00 am Sunset

Attendees: Casey Coulson, Joseph Maurer, Jeff Parady, Steve Schultz, Rob Shaffer, Nellie Stewart, David Thaemert

Absent: Barb Conner, Tyler Pinson, Carl Thomas, Whitney Witherspoon

Updates

- The Veteran Data benchmark graduation rate beginning 2007 was presented by Steve Schultz at the March 17 meeting. The data only includes students receiving veteran benefits.
- The Veteran Data self-report on admission application has been collected by Barb Conner. She will present at our next meeting.
- Barb Conner researched the idea that veteran benefits could pay for an ACAD class for vet students only. The State Approving Agency (SAA) has denied the request. Other ideas from Barb included offering the course for free to students and paid for out of some campus budget. The idea originated by wanting a way to reach out to student veterans and let them know of their resources and support. The group decided another avenue. OVA will work with Admissions to create a letter that automatically goes out to new incoming students that have marked veteran status on the admission application. This welcome letter will include the location of the OVA lounge, upcoming events/workshops and advertise the Veteran Breakfast at New Student Orientation. The group would also like to be able to identify veteran status on the Registration folder provided to advisors to allow a quick conversation about our veteran-friendly campus. Nellie Stewart will check with the Registrar's office for any FERPA issues.
- OVA update – Tyler and Casey traveled to Eugene for a conference. The big topic was the Wounded Warrior Project. They provide resume writing, course mapping and other benefits. One thing noticed by Casey was that Oregon Tech has got their veteran stuff together! All other campuses had many general questions on policy and procedure where we are already set and going strong. The OVA is working on a Weapon Safety event, Archery event, and possibly another Laser Tag event.
- Iron Owl Challenge – May 17-19. AJ Davila and Joseph Miranda have coordinated the bulk of this year's event. Next year details are going to be ironed out soon. Rob Shaffer hopes to get a larger corporate sponsorship to help alleviate liability and insurance issues. This will free up quite a bit of concern from the Purchasing and Contracts department.
- Yellow Ribbon Events – Did not go to the one hosted in Washington for April. June date will depend on numbers. August is tentative to Steve Schultz summer vacation plans.

- New Student Orientation – OVA plans to host a breakfast for veterans. Currently working out the details with Campus Life and NSO team.

Next Meeting

Friday, May 23, 10:00 – 11:00 am, Sunset

Written by Nellie Stewart