

IUPUI Veterans Taskforce
Meeting Minutes
10-13-08

Members: Bowman, Alicia; Burcham, Nekoma; Durgans, Ken; Duxbury, Ken; Evenbeck, Scott; Johnson, James; Morgan, Trent; Porter, Becky (co-chair); Ross, Frank (co-chair); Silver, Russell; Thamasak, Unchana

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Attending this meeting: Bowman, Alicia; Burcham, Nekoma; Duxbury, Ken; Evenbeck, Scott; Johnson, James; Morgan, Trent; Porter, Becky (co-chair); Ross, Frank; Silver, Russell; Moody, Pam
- Charge to the group
 - Examine how IUPUI is currently serving our students who are veterans and to propose what we would like to provide
 - What language do we need to use to include any active duty individuals, reservists, spouses, and dependent children?
- The National Guard 76th Brigade is returning in late November/ early December with approximately 2000 from the Central Indiana area. Perhaps 20-120 will be interested in enrolling this spring.
- Comments from the videoconference
 - The presenters used a WWII model when returning personnel were discharged en mass and entering college. With the National Guard personnel, many will be returning to their jobs rather than immediately entering college.
- Guard and Reserve Higher Education Project
 - Becky Porter will represent IUPUI on the ICHE project to help members of the Indiana Guard and Reserve as they seek a college degree
 - Steering Committee will propose ways that Indiana colleges and universities might assist Guard members and Reservists
 - The focus will be on administrative policies that universities should adopt
- IUPUI Resources (beginning listing)
 - Using the existing website created for Students Using Veterans (VA) Benefits: <http://registrar.iupui.edu/va.html> a link will be created for the Veterans Services Task Force. The documents listed below will be added to that site.
 - **Veterans@IUPUI Student Group document**
 - Much background information, data, and analysis has already been completed by Russell Silver, President of Veterans@IUPUI student group. The paper drafted by that Veterans Group is linked here for convenience: [Veterans@IUPUIDocument_10_13_2008.pdf](#).
 - **Enrolled Veteran Stats: Spring 2006 through Fall 2008**
 - <U:\AllShared\Veterans\VA General Info\VA Service Task Force Info\Veteran Enrollment at IUPUI 4088 - 4062.xlsx>

- **Summary Matrix of Veterans Ed Benefits**
 - [VAEdBenefitsMatrix.xlsx](#)
 - **IUPUI Stats compared to State of Indiana**
 - The document takes a point in time and reflects the number of Indiana veterans receiving benefits and compares to the number attending IUPUI
 - [Statewide stats.xlsx](#)
- IUPUI Offices Serving Veterans (Preliminary listing of those with specific services for veterans)
- The Office of the Registrar is responsible for student veterans' GI Bill benefit services as well as Go Army Tuition Reimbursement processing at IUPUI. The VA certifying official from the Office of the Registrar has also taken on the role of advisor to the Veterans@IUPUI student group as they began organizing and planning events.
 - In an effort to improve communication and provide the specific steps for eligibility in one location, a website has been available, created by the Office of the Registrar/VA Certifying officer, to assist student veterans through the paperwork necessary for benefit eligibility: <http://registrar.iupui.edu/va.html>. This site, **Students Using Veteran Affairs (VA) Benefits**, provides links to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Education Service, the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Affairs Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment along with instructions for processing benefits for a Child of a Disabled Veteran.
 - All prospective, new, and current students, worldwide, can access this site which provides a central repository of key information about moving through the eligibility process.
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- The Office of Student Financial Aid Services processes CVO and National Guard Supplemental Grants. An Assistant Director position is charged with these responsibilities.
 - The Office of the Bursar processes Tuition Assistance through their Sponsor Coordinator position. In addition, the Office of the Bursar has put into place a process to waive the late payment fee for specific populations of veterans who have not received their payments from the VA.
 - The Division of Student Life provides programs, services and facilities that assist all students in making a successful transition, both academically and personally, into the IUPUI community. These include support for students and advisors of over 300 student organizations, support for first-year students through Orientation and learning community courses, residential based learning communities, counseling services, culturally-affirming programming both on campus and abroad, student activities, campus housing facilities, student advocacy, support of student rights and responsibilities, and space in the student union. In addition to resources offered to all IUPUI students, the following services are available to student veterans at IUPUI: development of and continued support for the Veterans@IUPUI student organization, support organizing a veteran's resource fair, specialized presentations by counseling center staff on the impact of PTSD on veterans and their families, and counseling services not only for veterans but also their partners and family members.

- Information on SOC agreements needs to be available to those who are dealing with perspective students
 - Follow-up ??
- Completing the application process when out of country is challenging,
 - Getting items such as high school transcripts is difficult
 - Becky has referred this issue to UG Admissions for consideration
 - Meeting deadlines can be difficult
 - Becky referred this issue to UG Admissions. Application deadlines will not be rigidly enforced and staff will be reminded that this is our practice.
- Credit evaluators need to be familiar with the SMART transcript and provide appropriate evaluations
 - This is an issue beyond credit evaluation since the application of the credits toward degree requirements is the most critical issue.
 - Follow up with the academic units will be need.
- Orientation
 - Including veterans who are beginning students with typical beginning students does not provide an effective introduction to IUPUI. The optimal solution would be an orientation specific for veterans. Another alternative is to include veterans in the transfer student orientation.
 - Taking placement tests is problematic for individuals who are out of the country.
 - The English placement is test is a self assessment that can be completed online.
 - Arrangements can be made for the math placement test to be done remotely with a proctor.
- Veterans need a location where they can gather.
 - Next Steps
 - Follow up will be initiated on issues identified during the meeting and information provided to the members as it is received.
 - A draft recommendation list will be started and distributed to committee members for response
 - A follow-up meeting will be scheduled