December 17, 2008
330 HUB-Robeson Center, University Park
10:30 a.m.
Minutes-Final

Attended by phone: S. Christ, B. Farrell, J. Rodney, V. Carter, G. Siegel, B. Brooks, T. Jankowski
Unable to Attend: M. Mahalik, M. Jordan, L. Laing, B. Curley

1) S. Christ called the meeting to order and made the following announcements:
   a) Due to full agendas, the February, March and April 2009 meetings may run two hours instead of the currently scheduled hour and a half.
   b) Members should submit expense reports for mileage to monthly meetings within the same month that the meeting is held.
   c) The Commission is invited to send five representatives and the current chair to a Board of Trustees breakfast meeting on January 23, 2009. Information and talking points will be sent to attendees before the event. S. Christ, J. Olson, B. Farrell, and J. Rodney will attend. Other members will check their schedules to determine if they are able to attend. Action item: Members will notify S. Christ if they would like to participate, and she will select attendees by January 9, 2009.

2) The meeting minutes from November 19, 2008 meeting were clarified per request from S. Gleason. The change was made to section 5, final sentence to now read as follows: The group cited (a) inadequate financial assistance; (b) the time of day when many courses are offered in face-to-face classes is not convenient for working adults; and (c) the evaluation of work experience for credit.

3) Ted Timmerman gave a presentation on Veteran’s programs. He gave a history of the Office of Veterans programs and services available through the office. The primary constituency of the office is veterans, defined as someone who has been honorably discharged from military service, and the focus is on education. He described various benefits programs available to veterans. The office purchases a list of Pennsylvania residents who have recently received a discharge certificate from active duty. The office sends out a letter to those residents. Typically 300-600 letters are sent each month with 354,400 sent to date. A staff of thirteen all-veteran work-study students makes follow-up phone calls to letter recipients who return a postcard indicating interest in Penn State. Notes from his presentation are attached. Action item: S.
Christ to check with Paul Rutter in Outreach Marketing to find out if information is available to show how the percentage of veterans who comprise the population of each campus compares to the percentage of veterans as part of the student population University-wide.

4) Committee reports
   a) Adult Enrollment Coordinator committee-B. Brooks reported that the committee has sent information to campus AECs with the intent on maintaining the flow of communications from the Commission to the AECs until the new AEC Program Manager is filled. The committee sent out the Adult Enrollment Coordinator draft strategic plan authored by Charlene Harrison and asked for feedback on the plan. The committee shared some ‘bragging points’ submitted by AECs:
      - The New Kensington campus opened a lounge/study room specifically for adult students. The room has been furnished with new furniture, computer, refrigerator, coffee pot, etc. The grand opening was held in November in conjunction with their Adult Open House (for recruitment purposes) on November 14th.
      - CE units at Harrisburg & State College, School of Nursing, and Hershey Med Center are working to deliver credit programming at HMC. Currently we have 14 HMC employees enrolled in an LPN to RN program, and we have a following of employees interested in the GENEDs and certificate programs. Action item: Commission members should encourage their campus AEC to respond to requests for information and feedback made by the committee.

   b) Faculty Engagement committee-R. Farrell reported that the committee is waiting for determination from Blannie Bowen on whether the proposed adult learner appendix will be added to the Faculty Handbook. If it is not, the appendix will be made available on the Commission for Adult Learners web site. The committee will move ahead with plans to author an adult learner appendix intended for the Student Handbook.
      The committee proposed a panel discussion to be offered at the 2009 Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners conference. They would like to include four to five panelists, including two faculty who were adult learners as undergraduates. Prospective panelists are being identified by the committee.

   c) Hendrick Conference Planning committee-J. Wills gave a report on behalf of L. Laing.
      (1) Keynote speaker Dr. Dungy will have a breakfast meeting with Commission sponsors Dr. Weidemann and Damon Sims on the day of the conference.
      (2) The Call for Proposals was sent out and was distributed to various listservs.
      (3) John Faris and Caroline Russo will edit website pages and it will go live shortly. They were also asked to redesign the conference flyer and Hendrick logo as the first draft looked exactly like last year’s with the text changed and did not adequately address this year’s theme ‘The Changing
Face of Our Campuses.’ The committee will share the new design with the Commission when it becomes available.

(4) Travel Grant information will go out in January via email.

(5) The committee accepted the Commission’s proposal to host a student panel instead of the administrator “panel of experts.” Cheryl Markley has identified one potential panelist and Sharon Christ has submitted another. The Commissioners have been also asked to submit nominations for at least two other adult learners from other campuses. Action item: Members are asked to submit nominations for student panelists to J. Wills at jcw25@psu.edu.

(6) L. Laing is working with the Educational Gaming Commons to assist with creating a script for a technology podcast/video using Avatars in Second Life in order to demonstrate the changing landscape of technology and its influence on campus.

(7) M. Jordan will be approaching the Commission for an additional sum of $500 to cover an unexpected increase from Conferences and Institutes so that the conference registration fee increase can be limited to changing from $65 to only $69.

d) Incentive Grants and Awards Committee-J. Wills reported on behalf of M. Jordan that 2008 Incentive Grant Evaluations/Progress reports have all been received and will be reviewed. 2008 Incentive Grant recipients will be contacted in early 2009 about having the projects funded by incentive grant monies either photographed or videotaped to use at a poster session at the 2009 Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners conference. Proposal instructions for 2009 are with the marketing department. The instructions will be added to the web sit with the capability to be completed and submitted electronically via the Commission web site. Once the application is uploaded to the web site, an email announcement will go out to various list servs and the application deadline will be January 31, 2009. M. Jordan has asked the AEC committee to help evaluate the completed proposals which are received.

5) Other discussion topics-

a) M. Jordan is working with Jean McGrath to collect information on scholarships available specifically to adult learners and the topic will be addressed at a future Commission meeting.

b) A. Griswold distributed an update on adult learners’ unmet need for financial aid. The information will be discussed at a future Commission meeting. The information will be sent electronically to members not able to attend the December 17 meeting.

6) The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 18, 2009 in Room 324 Outreach Building, located in Innovation Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Wills
Commission for Adult Learners – Veterans programs presentation – December 17, 2008

Office of Veterans Programs:
  Staff: five permanent staff members:
    - Director: Dr. Brian Clark
    - Staff Assistant: Heather Carroll
    - General Counseling: Terry Johnson
    - Disabled Veteran Counseling: Richard Raynak
    - Outreach: Ted Timmerman

GI Bill benefits: Chapters
  - Chapter 30 – Montgomery GI Bill
  - Chapter 31 – Vocational Rehabilitation GI Bill
  - Chapter 32 – Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)
  - Chapter 34 – Vietnam Era GI Bill
  - Chapter 35 – Dependents GI Bill – for dependents of those killed on active duty or 100% disabled
  - Chapter 1606/1607 – Reserve GI Bill
  - Chapter 33 - Post 9/11 GI Bill

- Outreach activities: RONA (354,440), ConAP, walk-ins/call-ins, OUA download weekly
- Other military educational programs: Tuition Assistance (T/A); STA 21; Green – To – Gold; MECEP; active duty graduate programs; logistics fellows

Current Topics
  - Support groups – PSUVO
  - Scholarships
  - Milton Diehl Loan
  - Military consortium
  - Recalled to active duty: registrar – Kaye Keith
  - Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
  - Military Credit evaluation and transfer
  - Post 9/11 GI Bill

Contacts:

Penn State’s Office of Veterans Programs: [http://www.equity.psu.edu/veterans/](http://www.equity.psu.edu/veterans/)

Department of Veterans Affairs Education Services: [http://www.gibill.va.gov/](http://www.gibill.va.gov/)

Penn State University Veterans Organization (PSUVO): [http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/psuvo/index.htm](http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/psuvo/index.htm)
Dear Fellow Veteran:

Now that you have left the service you are probably thinking about your future. You may be considering employment in a field related to your military occupation, or you may be considering an entirely new career. Whatever your plans, a college education could make a positive difference in furthering your goals, and Penn State offers a wide range of academic programs to meet your individual needs.

You may believe that you are not prepared to meet the rising costs of higher education, even if you have VA educational benefits. Do you know that the Pennsylvania PHEAA grant can pay up to more than $3,500 of annual undergraduate tuition costs for eligible veterans? You may qualify for other forms of financial aid as well.

Are you worried about competing with recent high school graduates? A large and growing number of adults now attend college and Penn State has programs designed to help them succeed. Are you concerned about meeting college entrance requirements? Many Penn State campuses offer remedial programs where eligible veterans can improve their basic skills.

You may wish to begin classes near your hometown. Are you aware that there are over twenty Penn State locations throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania? Regardless of where you begin, from enrollment to graduation, Penn State is committed to providing support for veterans.

Whether you will be a freshman or have some college credit already, we can provide you with information about admission, financial aid, veterans’ benefits, academic programs, and more. If you will be a graduate or post-graduate student, your need for pre-admission help may not be as great. We can, however, assist you with VA benefits, and put you in contact with the appropriate academic or administrative departments.

To learn more about Penn State, please complete the enclosed card, affix the proper postage, and return it to the Veterans Outreach Office. If you prefer to call, Outreach counselors are available 10am to 8pm (EST), Monday through Thursday, and Friday until 5pm at (814) 863-1798. If you have electronic mail, our address is veteran@psu.edu, or via the internet at: http://www.equity.psu.edu/veterans/. We also encourage you to get in touch with your Veterans’ contact at the campus nearest your home.

We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

T.R. Timmerman, III
Coordinator of Veterans Outreach

- Note: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provided us with your name and address as a recently separated Pennsylvania veteran. If this is incorrect we sincerely regret any error made in contacting you.
Fall 2008 Veterans Population by campus

Abington - 53
Altoona – 83
Beaver – 21
Berks – 58
Brandywine – 20
Dubois – 31
Erie – 106
Fayette – 50
Greater Allegheny – 14
Harrisburg – 216
Hazleton – 17
Lehigh Valley – 27
Mont Alto – 44
New Kensington – 34
Schuylkill – 31
Shenango – 23
Wilkes-Barre – 25
Worthington Scranton – 33
York – 79
University Park – 556

Dickinson – 9
Hershey – 6
Great Valley – 54
World Campus – 447

Total: 2037

- Only reflects those with a “chapter vet code” and those coded as veterans.
- Does not contain active military. May not include those using tuition assistance and those veterans no longer using GI Bill benefits.
University training program to help wounded warriors

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

Training will prepare military recreation managers to assist service members returning to active duty

University Park, Pa. — More than 65,000 military personnel have been wounded by hostile and nonhostile acts in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001. In addition to advances in medical care, recreation programming is playing an important role in reintegrating these individuals into military, family and community life. To help these wounded warriors, Penn State has developed a first-of-its-kind training program for military recreation managers worldwide, a program the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has agreed to fund through 2011. The first is planned for Jan. 11-15 at the University Park campus.

"The Inclusive Recreation for Wounded Warriors program provides the knowledge, tools and resources recreation managers need to integrate active-duty wounded warriors into their existing recreation programs," said Ruth Ann Jackson, executive director of the Penn State Hospitality Leadership Institute and co-principal investigator for the project.

Inclusive recreation refers to modifying activities and using adaptive equipment to enable individuals with physical, behavioral or emotional limitations to participate in recreation. For example, military personnel with amputations may require different prosthetic feet to rock climb, stabilization straps to lift weights and flotation aids to swim; while those with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) who experience adverse reactions to crowds and loud noises may need recreation activities structured in quieter settings enabling participation with family and friends, according to Tammy Buckley, Penn State co-principal investigator of the Inclusive Recreation program.

"Active participation in recreation promotes health and wellness, increases combat readiness and reduces incidents of suicide and destructive behaviors associated with PTSD," added Buckley.

Carol Potter, recreation program manager, DoD Morale, Welfare and Recreation Policy, said, "Appropriate inclusive recreation programming has long been recognized as beneficial in helping the injured, the spouse and the children adjust to and thrive in their new situation. The Department of Defense is extremely pleased to be working with Penn State to provide this training."

Joshua Watson, a Penn State senior in recreation, park and tourism management, understands the value of recreation for military personnel. Previously an Army military police officer in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries, Watson said, "Coming to Penn State and being involved in inclusive activities on campus has helped me readjust to civilian life." He will talk about his experiences during the first Inclusive Recreation program.
"For wounded warriors, quality of life issues go beyond caring for their medical, psychological and vocational needs," said Wesley Donahue, director of Penn State Management Development. "It can mean learning to play golf again or participating in new recreational activities."

The Department of Recreation, Park and Tourism Management is collaborating with the School of Hospitality Management and Management Development Programs and Services for the education and training programs at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Academy. These outreach activities are part of Penn State Outreach, the largest unified outreach organization in American higher education, which serves more than 5 million people each year, delivering more than 2,000 programs to people in all 67 Pennsylvania counties, all 50 states and 80 countries worldwide.

http://live.psu.edu/story/35803/nw4
Scholarship endowed to help veterans, dependents in need

Friday, November 7, 2008

University Park, Pa. — Nearly 300 Penn State alumni and friends, most of them military veterans, have contributed approximately $51,000 to endow a scholarship that will assist veterans or dependents of veterans at the University who have a demonstrated financial need and have achieved superior academic records.

Graduate or undergraduate students in any degree program at any Penn State location are eligible for the Veterans Special Needs Endowed Scholarship, which will be awarded for the first time in the spring 2009 semester.

Penn State enrolls about 2,000 veterans at its 24 campus locations throughout Pennsylvania, according to Brian Clark, director of the University’s Office of Veterans Programs. He also noted that the Penn State World Campus uses the Internet and other distance education tools to meet the educational needs of several hundred military personnel around the globe.

Edward N. Thompson, director of development in the Office of Educational Equity, said fundraising for the scholarship began in conjunction with the 2006 Veterans’ Day observance, when an appeal was made to Penn State alumni who also were veterans.

"The University is thankful to each person who supported this scholarship endowment,” Thompson said. “It will last in perpetuity and help make a Penn State education possible for many deserving students. We also welcome additional gifts that would enable us to broaden the scholarship’s impact.”

Penn State invests endowed gifts and uses a portion of the annual income to support the purpose of the endowment. Remaining income is reinvested to protect the financial strength of the principal.

Clark said students interested in the scholarship should contact his office, which is part of the Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity. Visit http://www.equity.psu.edu/veterans/ or call (814) 863-0465 for more information.

http://live.psu.edu/story/35858/nw1