

Military Friendly Committee Meeting 4/2/19 Minutes

In Attendance: Chelsea Follis, Georgia Matthews, Dr. Cunha, Elizabeth Gilmer, Wilder Coleman, Student Rep Courtney Butts, Denise Daniels

Not in Attendance: Karen Jones, Lynette Saulsberry, Nick Kelch, James Brady, Dr. Wedincamp, Dr. Vess

Update from:

Admissions - none

Financial Aid - none

Business Office – no new business, no new issues

Visits from Mindy to the MRC – Mindy from Counseling and Disabilities has been spending 2 hours every week in the MRC, the days and times of the visits change to meet the needs of as many students as possible. This will continue for the duration of the 19-20 school year and will continue once school begins again in Fall. The objective of the visits is for Mindy to be present and available for students in a space they are comfortable in and to hopefully remove some the stigma around counseling.

How to best determine Veteran Staff and Faculty – Elizabeth said she will put together a “swag bag” that could be offered as a prize. Send email out to egcemployee@ega.edu and put all people that respond into a drawing. Dr. Cunha will also see what he can find out through casual conversations.

Creating Military Advisement Team - To show military students they are supported by more than their advisor, we would like to create a military advisement team. Options were discussed as to how best create this. One option is to create an Athlete Group for Military students and identify members of ‘military team’ as coaches, this would display in Grades First. Another option is to manually add secondary advisors in Banner. This would show up to the student in banner. Further discussion is needed to determine best course of action.

Creating ‘Green Zone’ Environment – Green Zone is a 3-hour training that staff and faculty could go through that would help them to understand what a military or dependent student may be going through. Once the training is completed, each person that completed the training would receive an identification to show military and dependent students that the staff or faculty member has a general idea of their situation. Denise is working on getting the 3-hour training from UNG. It will then need to be changed to fit East Georgia. Timing of training will also need to be determined. Looking at training once a semester – this would be for all three campus locations. Discussed possibility of also adding a Veteran Sticker (or other identification) to self-declaring staff or faculty so they could display on door or in office window.

Military Veteran Parking on campus – As an outward appreciation toward our military students, we would like to have Military Veteran Parking spaces on campus. Concern of uniformity among campuses was brought up. Reach out to AU Veterans Center or VASCO regarding spots on AU campus. It was noted that Michelle Goff would be contact person. Denise will reach out to Michelle and AU.

Grab & Go Cards – develop 3 or 4 postcard size info cards with essential information for military/dependent students. Elizabeth’s area will help create and find most effective way to print. Georgia would like to review prior to printing.

VECTR Center in Warner Robins - potential visit – the VECTR center is located in Warner Robins and is a 10-million-dollar facility that assists veterans with many things, starting a business, securing startup money, filling out VA forms, disability forms, testing and multiple other things. May be a possible trip that should be taken to visit the center and see all that it offers for Veterans, that way there are several people on campus that could direct veterans to resources. VECTR center hand-out was dispersed to all in attendance. Georgia Matthews has a student in mind that could use these services immediately. This will be re-visited.

World Map in MRC for Veterans and dependents – a world map has been delivered, awaiting best way to hang on partition in the MRC. Courtney and Denise found flag push pins that will be ordered. Each veteran, military member and dependent will be able to put flags on maps where each has “served”. Elizabeth would like to be kept in the loop as this will make a good marketing opportunity as well.

Kayak activity – April 16 11-3 by Ezra Pond – VETS Club will be sponsoring the event for all students. Army and Marines will be on hand and have activities as well. Kayaking, games, snacks and drinks will take place. Elizabeth mentioned that is one of the Correll Scholar interview days and it would be nice for the correll scholars to take part in some of the activities.

Additional Business –

MRC has a new wall sticker that marketing designed and displays photos of military along with words that describe military personnel.

MRC Lightpole banner has a PR request put in for – it will hang outside the nearest entrance to the MRC and be MRC and patriotic themed.

No meeting necessary until the Fall semester as summer will be busy with orientations.