

Minutes
Veterans Action Committee Meeting
November 1, 2012, 11:00 – 12:00 pm, Sunset

Attendees: Chris Dalla, Jennie Spencer, Stephen Schultz, Casey Coulson, Jeff Pardy, AJ Davila, Kristin Sayles

Absent: Joe Miranda, Nellie Stewart

Website – Video and pictures from the Iron Owl Challenge are currently being edited so they can be uploaded on the page for Veterans on our website. The Facebook page will be current also. The next date for the Iron Owl Challenge has been determined to be May 17-19, 2013, the weekend before Memorial Day. Contacts have been made at West Point (Army) and the Air Force Academy and Annapolis (Naval Academy) is being worked on. The mission statement for the Iron Owl Challenge is being changed to focus on fallen and wounded warriors. If there are ways to support the cause, please work with AJ to see how that might fit. For subsequent Challenges, it's been determined it would be a good idea to have donation brackets so donors could see how things are looking financially. Fundraising is a big challenge; the approximate budget for the entire event is \$7,000 - \$8,000.

AJ and Joe are finishing up their school careers and are looking for any interested Veteran students who would like to be involved in the leadership of the program on campus.

There was a separate event at Student Orientation for Veteran students but it appeared there was a low attendance. The committee discussed possible reasons for this and will evaluate whether or not this will be continued.

Veteran's lounge – the lounge now has a 50" TV screen and an X-Box; it is becoming more of a "lounge". The sign in the window is there all the time however, the lounge is not open all of the time. The committee discussed the possibilities of having a permanent sign indicating the location of the lounge. Kristin said she will try to get a couple of sign stands donated from Sign Pro. Women Veterans are now using the lounge. There is information directing inquiries to AJ and Joe via email.

There will be a Veterans luncheon on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 from 11:30 to 1:30 for all student Veterans and Faculty and Staff Veterans. Jennie Spencer will send Adria Paschal a list of Faculty and Staff members who are Veterans. There are posters around the community inviting Veterans who are not associated with Oregon Tech. This year's lunch will not have a guest speaker but will allow for participants to spend time talking.

Yellow Ribbon events – Having student Veteran representation is really helpful at these events to talk about Oregon Tech, OUS in general and what it's like to transition to being a student. Perhaps Kristin can attend; this might help with specific questions. She will look into the particular details for this to occur.

Erik Jorgensen, the grant writer for Oregon Tech, has started looking for grant monies that might support services for Veterans. The Wilsonville campus is interested starting a student Veteran group there. The committee shared information about changes needing to be made regarding the housing allowance given under the GI Bill. Currently the amount allowed is based on where the Certifying Official is located but when there are multiple campus locations that allowance isn't always current with the geographic location of the student.

Discussion of Recruiting efforts to existing groups at military bases was deferred to the next meeting.

Reminders

Next Meeting – **We discussed the idea of having the next meeting the week of January 14, 2013 but it was not decided yet.**

Bring topic suggestions.

Written by Jennie Spencer