

MINUTES

Veterans Action Committee
January 12, 2015, 3:00 – 4:00 pm
Sunset

Attendees: Jeff Parady, Tyler Pinson, Rob Shaffer, David Thaemert, Whitney Witherspoon

Absent: Nigel Bliss, Barb Conner Steve Schultz, Nellie Stewart, Carl Thomas

Updates

- 1) OOHLELALA mobile app.: OOHLELALA mobile App's have been being used for marketing, scheduling events, and communications among veterans as well as others campus wide for updates. OOHLELALA is now the preferred way for communicating most activities and benefits that the OVA has to offer. This will now be preferred over brochures, flyers, and other forms of paper advertisement that are more expensive and obsolete. The OVA have also been using and considering more use with Facebook and Twitter.
- 2) OVA Lounge update: The OVA representatives are expressing that more students than last year have been visiting the OVA lounge and staying longer to converse with each other. The OVA continue to allow free printing, snacks, and potential text that may be available among other miscellaneous items that may be helpful for student veterans. Many of the jackets donated to Whitney by the Air Force have been utilized by students as well. The OVA offers Television and Video games that people are taking advantage of. Many veterans are coming in to study in between classes as well as coming into the lounge as study groups. The OVA governance feels that they are able to keep veterans stimulated with the activities they have to offer. This is a huge improvement of OVA success in student participation.
- 3) Veteran Breakfast with President Maples: Veterans breakfast sponsored by Dr. Chris Maples was a good success again this year. I had noticed President Maples engaged with veterans at a full breakfast table and we appreciate this event that he does annually. We would like to recognize him for his generosity for hosting breakfast for veterans in the community.
- 4) Laser Tag Event: Tyler stated that they had fun last year, but would like it to be a little better organized this year. He also stated that he wants it to be bigger as well and to find other form of entertainment for guest awaiting turns at laser tag. Tyler had expressed how they would like to have food available and print T-shirts for this event. The date for laser tag is to be held 2/28/2015. Tyler has a Spring term activity possibly in mind for a golf tournament. Last year there were twenty-one teams. This year's goal is for thirty-two teams to take part in this activity.
- 5) Toys for Tots: Tyler expressed that Nigel felt that the annual 'Toy's for Tot's' event went well, but there was not a great turn out of people. A total of twenty-three boxes were sent out.

- 6) Winter Coats: As expressed in the OVA lounge update, most jackets donated to Whitney from the Air Force have been taken advantage of by veteran students on campus. The remainder of the five jackets will be donated to the Orlando House.
- 7) Wilsonville Campus Veterans Club: The OVA as well as Rob Shaffer has reached out to the Wilsonville Campus Veterans Club, but felt unwelcomed in working together. This is evidenced by contacts that were brief and without conclusion, or in the case of emails like interest there were no response. Rob Shaffer stated the club advisor appears not to be opened to working with the Klamath Falls campus either.
- 8) Military Courses and experience applying toward credits at Oregon Tech: There are many fronts to approaching this topic. As of now Di Saunders at the Wilsonville campus stated she would be contact PSU to see how they go about using military credits that would be applicable to student course work. These areas can potentially include math, speech, communications, ETC. Locally, we would like to work with Tracy Heep at KCC who also current use military courses towards academic credits. On the Klamath Falls campus we would like to work with Wendy Ivie, Marla Edge, and eventually programs and branches of the military in how we might be able to forge those articulation agreements.
- 9) Yellow Ribbon Event: Tabled until Steve Schultz is present.
- 10) ACAD course progress: A letter from Di Saunders has been prepared for Chris Maples to sign and to be sent to Congressman, Greg Walden. This is the last few options for trying to get the ACAD classes paid by the Veterans Administration for Oregon Tech veterans. After reading this letter during the VAC meeting there were grammatical corrections that needed to be made as well as some accuracy to check on. Rob Shaffer had asked for the electronic copy to be sent so he can correct the letter accordingly.
- 11) OVA Events and Yearly Calendar: It has been agreed to keep an electronic calendar for progress being made towards events and other activities in order to avoid not being organized or rushed. The OVA had agreed to keep this updated for their needs.

Written by: Jeff Pardy

Next Meeting: Monday, February 9, 3:00 – 4:00 pm, Sunset