

Veterans Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes November 28, 2007

Present: Carin Anderson, Dr. Gary Christenson, Eugene Karados, Amber Kissner, Mary Koskan, Joyce Laher, Aaron Ledebuhr, Doug Leonard, Mike Lovas, Clayton Rask, Lonna Riedinger, Karen Starry, Phil Stedje, Diane Wartchow, Amelious Whyte

Student Veterans Appreciation Day

The appreciation day event was discussed. Overall, the feeling was that the event went well, and the turnout was pleasing.

A survey will be sent to student veterans in hopes of getting feedback to use when planning next year's event.

Orientation for veterans

Two orientation sessions are scheduled for spring term. Currently, there are 19 new student veterans starting in January. This number does not include any veterans that are readmitted. It was suggested that colleges be notified of new veteran students within their programs.

Drop outs

The drop-out rate of our student veterans will be tracked in order for the committee to address issues.

Veterans Coordinator

Mike Lovas was introduced as the Veterans Coordinator working alongside Carin Anderson in 200 Fraser Hall. Mike is a 2004 graduate of the University of Minnesota and a member of the Minnesota National Guard.

Web resources

Veterans' information on www.mentalhealth.umn.edu is being updated. Suggestions can be sent to Dr. Gary Christenson. Services provided by the University will be more apparent on the site. The content from debriefing will be reaffirmed. Also, links to other services on campus and around the community will be available.

Veterans Transition Center

The Veterans Transition Center will be located on the third floor of Westbrook Hall. It is forecasted to open early spring 2008 semester.

Future Meetings

At a future meeting, it would be helpful to have a discussion on the differing procedures used by the Office of Admissions and college offices in regards to admitting veterans.

An agreement was reached to have meetings every other month. There will be no meeting in December.