

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, September 11, 2014**

### **Minutes**

The Special Committee on Military Affairs (SCMA) met Thursday, September 11, 2014 at noon on the campus of Western Carolina University. Committee members present include Chairman Trask, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Lampe, Ms. Maxwell, Ms. Perry, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Harrelson. Vice President Rhinehardt, Vice President Rascoff, Vice President Stewart of the President's staff attended. The July 2014 minutes were approved.

Chairman Trask reaffirmed the Committee's goals: 1) increasing the applicant pool of military-affiliated students, 2) a high-quality product and consumer-focused delivery, 3) marketing to military-affiliated students, and 4) ensuring that the University is appropriately "keeping score" by holding itself accountable.

Vice President Rascoff presented the new "UNC Online" platform to the Committee for review and discussion. UNC Online officially re-launched one week prior to the Committee meeting. He identified UNC Online's target audience: new candidates for online programs and current students interested in online classes. UNC Online received over 30,000 unique visits in the last month. Google Analytics allows for tracking location and number of site visits from locations, including Fort Bragg (which has created some traffic). He reported that the re-launch attracted significant press coverage.

The Committee discussed the value of distance general education courses offered by the UNC William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education to military-affiliated students. The Friday Center is able to enroll any adult student in credit-bearing general education courses within a week of the candidate expressing interest. The Committee agreed to invite the Friday Center to attend their next meeting to learn more about their approach.

Vice President Stewart was recognized for five minutes to share information and progress on the University's work regarding academic credit for military learning and experience. Dr. Stewart stressed the importance of providing academic credit for adult learning and experience. She further stressed that this must result from a rigorous review of military course learning objectives and outcomes. Teams of faculty are being assembled to evaluate individual learning objectives of courses to determine academic credit to be applied consistently across the University. She reminded the Committee that Senate Bill 761 requires the North Carolina Community College system and the University to collaborate on consistent and rigorous standards for offering such credit with the goal of completion by end of year 2015. The University would like to be able to line up military learning and credit articulation with requirements/prerequisites for UNC programs in a searchable online format.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM.

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Raiford Trask III, Chair

Special Committee on Military Affairs