

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

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March 3, 2016

4. UNC CORE and Veterans Administration Education Benefits.....Karrie Dixon and Joe Wescott

Situation: Students using federal VA education benefits as a form of payment are not permitted to do so for the UNC CORE certificate program. VA education benefits cannot be used for single courses; education benefits may only be used for programs leading to a credential (i.e. certificate, degree, etc.). UNC-Chapel Hill has submitted the required approval documents to the North Carolina State Approving Agency, the VA’s approving authority in North Carolina. UNC-Chapel Hill awaits the Department’s decision.

Background: The UNC CORE certificate program is sponsored by UNC-Chapel Hill’s College of Arts and Sciences and administered by the Bill and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education. UNC CORE is designed to accelerate the degree path of active duty service members in the United States armed forces, veterans, and National Guard and Reserve members. These students can enroll in and complete general education courses from a distance on a flexible schedule.

Assessment: UNC CORE was originally conceived as a non-certificate, general education program for active duty service members seeking a higher education. Due to UNC CORE’s transition to a certificate program, the program may now be eligible for students using VA education benefits as a form of payment.

Action: This item is for discussion only. Joe Wescott, the Executive Director of the North Carolina State Approving Authority, will be available during the meeting to answer questions about this process.