



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Military and Veterans Affairs

January 16, 2020 at 2:00pm
The University of North Carolina System Office
Center for School Leadership and Development
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

AGENDA

- A-1. Approval of the Minutes of November 14, 2019..... N. Leo Daughtry
- A-2. NC Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans Update Secretary Larry Hall, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- A-3. Presentation on Military Student Retention Best PracticesSiobhan Norris
- A-4. Student Veteran Organization Panel DiscussionSiobhan Norris
- A-5. Presentation on UNCG Military Mentoring ProgramBrad Wrenn, Director of Military Affairs
- A-6. Adjourn

Additional Information Available

A-3 UNC Military Student Success Policy 700.7.1
A-4 Profile of Student Veterans of America

DRAFT MINUTES

November 14, 2019
Elizabeth City State University
K.E. White Graduate Center
Elizabeth City, North Carolina

This meeting of the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs was presided over by Chair Leo Daughtry. The following committee members, constituting a quorum, were also present in person or by phone: David Powers, Thomas Goolsby, and Terry Hutchens.

Chancellors participating were Zito Sartarelli from UNC Wilmington and Peggy Valentine from Fayetteville State University.

Staff members present included Siobhan Norris, Kathie Sidner, and others from the UNC System Office.

1. Call to Order and Approval of OPEN Session Minutes (Item A-1)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:16pm on Thursday, November 14, 2019, and welcomed those in attendance. Governor Daughtry then called for a motion to approve the open session minutes of September 19, 2019.

MOTION: Resolved, that the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs approve the open session minutes of September 19, 2019.

Motion: David Powers

Motion: Carried

2. Guest Speakers (Item A-2)

The Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs heard from leaders from the U.S. Coast Guard and Elizabeth City State University. U.S. Coast Guard leaders spoke about the strong partnership between the university and the Coast Guard, which was recently made official by a signed memorandum of understanding. Leaders from the U.S. Coast Guard praised Chancellor Dixon's leadership and shared that a number of ESCU students participate in the Coast Guard's College Student Pre-Commissioning Initiative, known as C-SPI.

The committee then received a presentation from ECSU's Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Director of Military Affairs. Both shared the university's many notable rankings for serving military students, which include being in the top 5 military-friendly schools for small public universities noted by Military Times, as well as being designated as a "Military Spouse Friendly School." ECSU spoke about their strategic partnerships with the U.S. Coast Guard, NC Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, and the US Department of Veteran Affairs. The

university expects to enhance and expand its partnerships as part of the implementation of its 2020-2025 strategic plan.

3. FY 2019-2020 Priorities (Item A-3)

The Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs received an update from System Office staff and reviewed the proposed priorities that were presented at the September special committee meeting, which include: (1) enrolling more military students; (2) increasing retention, graduation, and post-graduation success for military students; (3) expanding strategic partnerships; (4) providing academic credit for military education; (5) providing flexible programs and pathways for active duty service members, veterans, and their families; and (6) offering supportive policies for military students. Each of these six priorities was developed after seeking extensive feedback from external and internal stakeholders, including UNC System staff and students, base commanders, and national subject matter experts. The committee unanimously passed the motion to adopt these priorities.

MOTION: Resolved, that the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs approve the priorities for FY 2019-2020.

Motion: David Powers

Motion: Carried

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:04pm.

David Powers, Secretary

AGENDA ITEM

A-2. Guest SpeakerSecretary Larry Hall, NC Department of Military & Veterans Affairs

Situation: Committee members will receive an update from Secretary Larry Hall on the current situation regarding the North Carolina Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans.

Background: Over 20,000 scholarships have been awarded to children of North Carolina veterans. The North Carolina Scholarship Program was created to show its appreciation for the service and sacrifices of its war veterans. The scholarship program can help support an education at any public North Carolina college or university. The scholarship covers eight academic semesters, and the recipient has eight years to utilize the funds. The scholarship program has been established for the qualifying children (biological or an adopted, if the child was 15 or younger before adoption) of certain class categories of deceased, disabled, combat, or POW/MIA veterans. Applicant must be under the age of 25 at the time of application. The veteran's qualifying criteria must have occurred during a period of war.

Assessment: On November 22, 2019 the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs informed all North Carolina public universities and community colleges about a reduction in the funding amount for the North Carolina Scholarship for Children of War-Time Veterans for the 2019-20 academic year. Students attending public universities were originally awarded \$2,000 for the room allowance and \$1,200 for the board allowance. With the reduction in funding, the new allowances are \$1,150 for room and \$675 for board. These reductions affected 564 students across the UNC System.

Action: This item is for discussion only.

AGENDA ITEM

A-3. Presentation on Military Student Retention Best Practices.....Siobhan Norris

Situation:	Committee members will receive a brief presentation on national and System-level best practices for retaining military students in higher education.
Background:	On November 14 th , 2019, the committee voted to approve increasing military student retention as a priority for 2020. Committee members will receive a brief presentation from UNC System staff on factors that contribute to military student attrition, as well as intervention strategies that constituent universities can practice in order to improve retention among their military student population.
Assessment:	Approximately half of service members transitioning off of active duty pursue higher education. Institutions of higher learning serve an important role in supporting the service members' transition back to civilian life. Quality programs that address the unique needs of military-affiliated students ensure a smoother transition to campus culture and promote retention among the military student body.
Action:	This item is for discussion only.

AGENDA ITEM

A-4. Student Veteran Organization Panel Discussion Siobhan Norris

Situation: Committee members will hear from a panel of student veterans from select UNC System institutions on the important role student veteran organizations (SVOs) play in promoting retention among military-affiliated students.

Background: In 2008, a national non-profit called Student Veterans of America (SVA) was formed to support veterans pursuing higher education. SVA is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and is the umbrella organization for SVO chapters within institutions of higher learning. Research shows that successful SVOs can help mitigate attrition factors among military students by promoting comradery, mentorship, and academic support. Nationally, there are more than 1,500 on-campus chapters in all 50 states and in 4 countries, representing more than 750,000 student veterans.

Assessment: Within the UNC System, 14 of the 16 universities have a student veteran organization. University support is critical to ensuring that student veteran organizations are successful.

Action: This item is for discussion only.

AGENDA ITEM

A-5. Presentation on UNCG Military Mentoring ProgramBrad Wrenn, Director of Military Affairs

Situation: Committee members will receive a presentation on a new mentoring program at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro that supports transition, retention, and employment success for its military-affiliated students.

Background: The Office of Military-Affiliated Services and the Office of Career and Professional Development at UNC Greensboro established a partnership in collaboration with the Alumni Affairs Office to develop a two-stage mentorship program for military students. Incoming first-year students are connected with a faculty or staff member to support their transition to the higher education environment and stay on-track for graduation. During their senior year, the students are connected to either a military-affiliated community partner or UNCG alum who is currently working in the career field connected to the student's major. This initiative supports post-graduation success by helping the student build a professional network outside the university and facilitate professional development and potential employment upon graduation.

Assessment: Although this program is in its infancy, UNCG predicts that it will increase retention rates, persistence rates, graduation rates, and post-graduation employment rates for our military-affiliated student community. Furthermore, they anticipate that it will strengthen the connection between military-affiliated alums and current students, as well as encourage future UNCG graduates to become mentors themselves.

Action: This item is for discussion only.