



MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs

February 20, 2020 at 3:30pm
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 January 16, 2020 meeting N. Leo Daughtry
- A-2. UNC System Digital Learning AcceleratorJim Ptaszynski
- A-3. Guest Speakers N. Leo Daughtry
 - a. Mona Dexter, Senior Director of Operations, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Hiring Our Heroes
 - b. Calvin Jensen, Career & Professional Development Manager, Student Veterans of America
 - c. Dale Robbins, Executive Director, Whole Vet
- A-4. Adjourn



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DRAFT MINUTES

January 16, 2020
University of North Carolina System Office
Center for School Leadership and Development
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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 C. 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 3:01pm on Thursday, January 16, 2020, and welcomed those in attendance. The chair called for a motion to approve the open session minutes of November 14, 2019.

MOTION: Resolved, that the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs approve the open session minutes of November 14, 2019.

Motion: David Powers

Motion: Carried

2. NC Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans Update (Item A-2)

The Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs received an update from Secretary Larry Hall, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, on the current situation regarding the North Carolina Scholarship for Children of Wartime Veterans. Secretary Hall informed the committee that, due to a funding shortfall for the scholarship program, several UNC System students were going to receive reduced scholarship payments. However, a second round of funding for state scholarships for wartime veterans, totaling \$2.4 million, had come about in a separate bill earlier in the week. Secretary Hall mentioned that this is an 89-year-old program and that he would be open to working with university chancellors in support of its continuation.

3. Presentation on Military Student Retention Best Practices (Item A-3)

The Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs received an update from Siobhan Norris, who informed the committee about new UNC System partners: The College Board and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Hiring Our Heroes. Ms. Norris shared highlights from the national Student Veterans of America conference, the world's largest military student convening. There was representation from five UNC System institutions: Appalachian State University, North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and University of North Carolina Wilmington. The UNC System was able to set up a booth and engage with prospective students. Tim Minor, vice president for University Advancement, also attended the conference and was able to engage with prospective corporate donors.

Ms. Norris also reviewed the special committee's priorities for FY2020, 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. Ms. Norris recommended establishing a UNC System Military Student Council to convene military students and share best practices. This council would resemble the Association of Student Governments and would strengthen the military student voice across the state. Ms. Norris also suggested training and educating more faculty and staff on military culture to better serve our military students.

4. Student Veteran Organization Panel Discussion (Item A-4)

The Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs welcomed a panel of student veterans from three of the UNC System institutions. The panel included Grayson Farmer from Appalachian State University, Heather Akers from North Carolina State University, and Joe Wessel from The University of North Carolina Wilmington. The panel members shared their experiences with the student veteran organization on their campus. Mr. Farmer expressed that he enjoyed having access to the special network of people with the same background and that they all felt like family. Ms. Akers mentioned that the student veteran organization is really important as a place where she finds comfort. Mr. Wessel expressed that the national conference was a great resource and huge networking opportunity that could lead to potential jobs for students.

5. Presentation on UNCG Military Mentoring Program (Item A-5)

The Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs received a presentation on a new mentoring program at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro that supports transition, retention, and professional success for its military-affiliated students. Brad Wrenn, director of Military Affairs at UNC Greensboro, shared that the program identifies faculty and staff mentors to pair with first-year and

sophomore students. Mr. Wrenn also talked about the online mentorship platform, UNCG Making Connections, that helps students create a profile and find mentors who fit their specific needs. The second step in this process is to prepare the students for post-graduation employment by pairing them with UNCG alumni working in their field of interest.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:06pm.

David Powers, Secretary

AGENDA ITEM

A-2. UNC System Digital Learning AcceleratorJim Ptaszynski

Situation: The committee will hear a presentation that summarizes the UNC System Digital Learning Accelerator. The Accelerator creates shared services to support the growth of sophisticated online learning across the System and the creation of new programs that target North Carolina’s pressing economic needs (e.g., Cybersecurity) and underserved populations (e.g., military, veterans, rural). This presentation will be provided to the Education Planning committee as well as Military and Veterans Affairs committee, since military and veteran students are a key target population for the effort

Background: UNC System universities are increasing the reach and size of their online degree programs. However, progress on this front has been uneven, and many institutions experience gaps in their current online course development capabilities.

Assessment: A solution is a shared resource service at the System level that will provide additional capacity and implementation expertise that some universities lack. This internal resource for constituent universities would require a system investment; however, the cost would be less than trying to build the needed capacities across 16 universities. This shared resource will be known as the “UNC Digital Learning Accelerator” (the Accelerator). The Accelerator will leverage, and not duplicate, many of the existing resources and prior investments we already have at the System Office. This includes the UNC Online platform as well as personnel who work in academic affairs, data and analytics, and licensing. We will build on top of an existing, solid, foundation rather than starting anew. The UNC Digital Learning Accelerator will serve as a shared resource across the UNC System, providing guidance in distance learning policies, strategies, and best practices. The Accelerator will function by collaborating with UNC System institutions, internal partners, and external partners to assess, design, deliver, and support online learning programs through faculty development, course production, research, and recruitment.

Action: This item is for information only.

AGENDA ITEM

A-3. Guest Speakers.....N. Leo Daughtry

Situation: Committee members will hear presentations from three representatives from organizations that support veteran and military spouse employment.

Background: Military-affiliated student employment is a priority for the Special Committee on Military & Veterans Affairs. Committee members will hear about programs and resources of three organizations – the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Student Veterans of America, and Whole Vet – that support employment pathways for UNC System military students.

Assessment: The UNC System Office has established a strategic partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Hiring Our Heroes (HOH) program to enhance national level visibility and military student recruitment opportunities for UNC System institutions, while also creating post-graduation employment pathways for UNC System military affiliated students. HOH launched in 2011 as a nationwide initiative to help veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses find meaningful employment opportunities.

Student Veterans of America (SVA) has partnered with LinkedIn to create a professional development and career training program for military students.

Whole Vet is a North Carolina based non-profit organization that facilitates opportunities for veterans in career development, education, mentorship, and networking through collaboration with UNC System institutions, NC community colleges, state and federal agencies, and private corporations.

Action: This item is for discussion only.

Profile of Organizations**1. U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes**

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes initiative launched in March 2011 as a nationwide effort to connect veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses with meaningful employment opportunities. Working with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's vast network of state and local chambers and strategic partners from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, its goal is to create a movement across America in hundreds of communities where veterans and military families return every day. To date, more than 31,000 veterans and military spouses have obtained employment opportunities through Hiring Our Heroes events. More than 2,000 companies of all sizes have committed to hire 710,000 veterans and military spouses as part of the Hiring 500,000 Heroes campaign. Of those commitments, there have been more than 505,000 confirmed hires.

2. Student Veterans of America

Student Veterans of America (SVA) is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. Since SVA's founding in 2008, over one million veterans have pursued a postsecondary degree or certificate using VA education benefits. To meet this growing demand for veterans' access to higher education, SVA's presence at the local and national levels has grown to include over 1,500 chapter affiliates (Student Veteran Organizations--SVOs), numerous private and nonprofit partners, and most importantly, an expanding list of impactful programs and services for veterans. The nation's renewed focus on veteran welfare has ignited change on campuses and in congress. SVA is committed to capitalizing on this momentum to ensure today's and tomorrow's veterans are supported in their transition to learning and professional environments.

3. Whole Vet

Whole Vet is a North Carolina based non-profit organization whose primary focus is guiding active military members and their families through the first two years of transition into civilian life. However, Whole Vet serves the entire military-connected community through corporate hiring events, professional mentorships, and resume support. Whole Vet has numerous corporate and educational partners, including the North Carolina National Guard, Cisco, PPD, Duke Energy, East Carolina University, NC State University, and UNC Wilmington.