

**Military Strategic Implementation Team**  
**Friday, February 21, 2014**  
**B-004, 25 South Front Street, Columbus, OH 43215**

This was the first Military Strategic Implementation Team meeting. Present were:

- Committee Members: Mike Carrell, Jean Chappell, James Funk, Barbara Henry, Joe Law, Karla Mugler, Brad Myers, Jared Shank, and Terry Worst
- Ohio Board of Regents Staff: Carlos Bing, Michelle Blaney, Paula Compton, Katie Giardello, Hideo Tsuchida

The morning part of the meeting included an overview of the purpose of the Military Strategic Implementation Team and the Valuing Ohio Veterans report. In addition, the team discussed the structure and timelines in implementing the recommendations in the report.

MSIT members were pre-assigned to each potential work group by Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network staff based upon their expertise. Subgroups met and discussed the strategy and plan to meet the established deadlines and tasks.

When the meeting reconvened after small group work, Dr. Paula Compton asked a question regarding the ability of institutions to track the number of credits that are awarded to veterans and service members. The team members responded that the institutions would most likely be able to provide information on the number of evaluations and the number of identified veterans. All institutions can provide the number of veterans because this information is already available per VA regulations. It is very unlikely that institutions would be able to report the number of credit hours.

### **Working Group Report Outs**

#### ***Group One (Brad Myers and Karla Mugler)***

Data from the survey will provide foundation information for some of the issues. A second survey may be needed to take a step further to the next level. Potential survey questions would be: "Do you have a priority structure?" "If yes, do you give preference to veteran students?"

#### ***#7. Create a veterans-specific appeals process***

The group is fairly confident that everyone has an appeals process. The real question is do they have a structure to evaluate military credit effectively. A baseline structure may not even be in place, let alone an appeals process.

#### ***#6. Provide priority registration for veterans and servicemembers***

Some institutions may not have priority registration. One or two community college representatives are needed in the discussion. One of the questions that may arise from institutions involves the number of students involved in granting veteran students priority registration and if this might skew the registration process.

*#5. Develop tools to better identify student veterans and service members*

First it will need to be determined how to identify veteran students as a whole. It will also need to be considered what subgroups will need to be identified. The group will need to propose a potential structure to the institutions and gather feedback.

*#3. No charge to veterans for the awarding of credit*

This is a very broad topic. Data will be needed to determine the current charges for services (e.g., initial evaluation, per credit hour or course, others as discovered). There may be pushback from institutions if the numbers are large.

Additional Comments:

- Dr. Compton commented that she likes the idea providing a structure. If institutions are charging for a number of different things, we should know what those are.
- Mr. Brad Myers will write up the notes from the report out and send them to Dr. Compton.
- Mr. Mike Carrell mentioned updating the Common Application that is being used by a number of institutions. The question where veterans self-identify needs to be written differently. The hope is that if enough schools want a change, perhaps, that will have the desired impact. Dr. Compton mentioned that a conference call can be set up with the team and the Common Application representatives.
- Dr. Karla Mugler added that Group One will find the two additional people they need from the 2-year institutions.

**Group Two** (Jean Chappell, Joe Law, Jared Shank)

*#1. Develop a baseline set of standards and procedures for military credit*

A survey may be needed to determine which military courses are most common for Ohio. The group also needs key contacts to determine which MOSs are stationed here in Ohio. Once the MOSs are determined, the courses attached to those can be examined. A determination will need to be made on awarding course credit or block credit. If the award is course credit, alignments will need to be determined with foreign language, OTM, TAGs, etc. ACE training will be needed. Also, a faculty review panel will be needed to validate course submissions. The assistance needed by this group will be help from registrars and coordination from OBR to include survey assistance and developing faculty panels. The group would also like to get more information on Minnesota's automated system. A point of contact will need to be established with the Ohio National Guard. Advertising will eventually be needed. The group will examine TAGs and CTAGs and inform Dr. Compton if they need help getting more people. Dr. Mugler added that Ms. Karen Dickerson has worked with MOS evaluation and would be a good person to assist the group.

**Group Three** (Mike Carrell, Barbara Henry, Rick DeChant)

*#4. Create a single point of contact for veterans on campus*

A single point of contact is referenced, but in the Valuing Ohio Veterans report, two contacts are actually referenced. These include a single point of contact and a single point for evaluation. These

should probably not be the same person, which is difficult financially for a smaller school. These contacts should definitely not be the certifying official. The group is considering how to write this for schools that cannot afford 2 or 3 people. The single point of contact needs to be able to discuss admissions and granting credit, but does not need to be the expert in these areas. Certifying officials are too busy to be doing anything else. Mr. Carrell mentioned that he would like to invite Mr. Josh Rider from Kent State University to formally join the group. Dr. Compton said that if an institution has already sent a representative to be a part of the overall team, we can ask others for assistance, but not formally invite them to join a group. It was also mentioned that the group member Rick DeChant from Cuyahoga Community College would be a great resource. A resource person from Sinclair Community College should also be contacted.

#### *#8. Develop a new student orientation specifically for military students*

The group will need to investigate what is already out there. Also a minimum baseline should be established of the topics that should be covered. An important question to be considered is what should be shared during the orientation (e.g., counseling, disability services). Often topics arise that are very important, but from a surface level might not be seen as relevant. A statewide repository for sharing information is needed. Mr. Jared Shank mentioned the ACE Veterans Toolkit as an example. Mr. Carrell said it would be nice to have a similar platform specific to Ohio. This group is working on a student orientation. The single point of contact should also be educating faculty and staff.

Additional comments:

- Dr. Mugler mentioned there are many opportunities for providing training depending on the programs in place at each institution (e.g., professional development, brown bag lunches, etc.).
- Dr. Barbara Henry mentioned centers for teaching and learning or a center for teaching development.
  - Dr. Compton said there is an organization we can ask for information on those.
- Dr. Mugler suggested that a session could be offered at advising conferences like NACADA.
- Dr. Henry mentioned residence hall trainings and programs for teaching assistants and graduate students to transition to campus.

#### ***Group Four (Barbara Henry, Mike Carrell, James Funk)***

#### *#2. Translating experience for college credit appropriately*

A few questions will need to be answered. The group will need to know what the guidelines are for a trained ACE evaluator. Also, the group will need to know who is already doing the training in Ohio. A link for resources through the State should be provided on the OBR website. A good strategy may be to take the training out regionally to recruit faculty.

#### *#10. Facilitate training based on state standards and procedures*

There is a need to find and/or create regional experts. There will be a need for a statewide expert(s) to train the trainers. Dr. Compton will check with Ms. Michelle Spires to see if the ACE will train the trainers. Another excellent resource for information would be Cleveland State University. They have strong support from faculty there.

*#1. Develop a baseline set of standards and procedures for military credit*

The group had questions about their role in addressing this area. Dr. Compton referenced the conceptual model that was discussed earlier in the meeting. The role of this group will be to help institutions understand the other things that come in beyond ACE. A list should be developed on what needs to be examined for each student. It will detail the items that are coming in and the tools that are needed to address these items. The group will be developing a standardized, holistic, comprehensive, and consistent evaluation plan that provides a macro-process to be used for every student who comes to the institution.

Additional Comments:

- Training will be needed for items that are not covered by the MTAG work.
- JSTs are very complicated and difficult to understand. This is an area that will require training.
- Pat Brewer is the ACE representative in Ohio. Mr. Hideo Tsuchida will email her contact information to Dr. Henry.
- Mr. Carrell mentioned the work that was completed a few years ago for “Military Friendly.” It might help energize this initiative if the Chancellor were to sign off on the earlier document. Mr. Carrell will send the “Military Friendly” information to Dr. Compton so she may investigate.