

Military Strategic Implementation Team (MSIT) – Meeting Notes

July 1, 2014

Ohio Board of Regents B-004

This was the fifth meeting of the Military Strategic Implementation Team (MSIT). Present in the room were: Carlos Bing, Michelle Blaney, Michael Carrell, Jean Chappell, Paula Compton, Richard DeChant, Leah Dickinson, Daniel Eakins, James Favuzzi, James Funk, Beth Gerasimiak, John Haviland, Barbara Henry, Joe Law, Karla Mugler, Brad Myers, Jared Shank, Kenneth Teter, and Hideo Tsuchida.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Richard DeChant welcomed everyone to the meeting. After a brief introduction to the plan for the day, the team members moved into their working groups for 45 minutes.

II. H.B. 488 Update

- H.B. 488 was signed into law on Monday, June 16, 2014.
- Once an updated version becomes available, it should be downloaded and posted to the website.
- A tour of the new Valuing Ohio Veterans Initiative website was provided by Dr. Paula Compton.
- Mr. Daniel Eakins provided a brief update on some changes and simplifications that have been made. He talked about the re-launch of the Ohio Means Jobs website with veteran capabilities built-in. Formerly, Ohio Means Veterans Jobs was a separate website. The new integrated site provides veteran specific information, but links from the main Ohio Means Jobs website. It will also provide information from the Valuing Ohio Veterans Initiative.
- A great opportunity is being presented to open discussions about veteran students and to ensure that everyone is aware of both current and past legislation.
- Ohio Department of Veterans Services just updated its [cellular telephone application](#). It includes a map and the phone numbers to veterans offices at the campuses.
- A few updates are to be made to the updated draft timeline, add “assisting” to #11; add “Office of Workforce Transformation” to #12.
- Ms. Leah Dickinson will assist Dr. Compton with scheduling for the CAO and Provosts meetings.

III. Institutional Appraisal

- Dr. Compton introduced the institutional self-appraisal that will be sent with the Chancellor’s letter. Institutions will not be expected to complete it for submission to OBR. There is a link at the end for institutions to ask for help from OBR if they need it. OBR will not be collecting the appraisal information.
- Mr. Brad Myers suggested that the feedback from the link at the end may be helpful in planning the meeting in September.

- Dr. Jean Chappell mentioned that the letter needs to explain the intent of this document. It is for the institution's own reference. They can ask OBR for help.
- Dr. Compton asked the MSIT if they approved of distributing their names and phone numbers to the campuses by working group.
 - i. The MSIT was fine with the distribution of their contact information. Emails should be added along with phone numbers.
- The University of Toledo, The University of Akron, and Bowling Green State University will send Student Veterans of America (SVA) contact information to give advice on how to form a student group since the school cannot do it for them.
 - i. Mr. John Haviland mentioned that the group does not have to be a part of the national Student Veterans of America (SVA).
 - ii. Step 1 would be finding 4-6 students who really want to have a group, then finding the rules and regulations in institutional policy on clubs.
- The appraisal will go out with the cover letter from the Chancellor, as an internal tool with a link to request assistance and a list of the MSIT members and what they are working on. It will go to the presidents. The comments will go to Ms. Dickinson.
- Ms. Dickinson needs to be added to the roster for the MSIT. Her email is ldickinson@regents.state.oh.us.
- A discussion occurred about attaching the timeline document. The group was concerned that the timeline would be difficult to follow without lengthy footnote explanations. It would need to be modified to serve as an effective reference for a broad audience.
- It was suggested that institutions would be most interested in a condensed checklist of things to do before the deadline. The self-assessment provides this information. There are concrete actions that need to occur by December 31, 2014.
- In summary, there are actions required by legislation, a self-appraisal is being provided along with a list of people to provide assistance. There is also a fall convening being planned with additional information forthcoming.
- The MSIT changed the name of the self-appraisal to "H.B. 488 Compliance: Institutional Readiness Assessment."
- It was also mentioned that the term "Military Friendly" has been trademarked and should not be used in our documents.

IV. **Committee Reports and Discussion**

Group One

- The survey was sent.
- There is one institution left that charges money for transfer credit. The fee has a very small impact on the institution. Mr. Myers has talked with the registrar about the legislation.
- All the appeals processes should accommodate for military.

- An idea is needed for a support structure from a tracking perspective. Group One will email the MSIT a draft of a structure for identifying students. Feedback is requested. The hope is to develop something that will meet the needs of OBR reporting.
- Group One is feeling confident about the status of its items.
- Question: What about students who don't want to be identified? Answer: They can self-select on the application.
- Question: Will spouses and dependents need to be identified? Answer: The focus is on narrowly identifying the veterans group. The veteran is the point person. Priority registration includes only the veteran or service members.

Group Two

- The survey has been developed.
- Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth Teter provided the group with occupation information.
- There are 46 courses total that were examined with OTM/TAG/CTAG in mind. 16 should move forward for review.
- Some courses in the data were old, so the group will not be examining these for review.
- The next batch of 100 courses includes the top 50 ACE courses received in Ohio and the top 50 CCAF courses received in Ohio.
- The last batch will include the top 50 ACE Occupations received in Ohio.
- Overall, the group is cautiously optimistic about the status of its items. It will be a couple more months until the data portion is complete. Faculty involvement will need to start in the fall.
- Dr. Compton commented that faculty still need to be added to the MSIT. One 4-year representative and one 2-year representative or more (4-5) would be good. Dr. Barbara Henry said she is working on getting a faculty representative.
- The common courses that Group Two found that some institutions are already awarding are related to Public Speaking course, which is part of the Communication Studies TAG and English/Oral Communication OTM.
- Someone asked if we can find the veterans on the current faculty review panels.
- Dr. Compton suggested there could be a faculty working group.

Group Three

- The group is going to take a supportive, helping approach with the orientation since it is not required.
- Perhaps a breakout session for military students could be added to a regular orientation.
- The single point of contact is in the law. The focus will be on developing guidance to understanding this part. Job descriptions will be included in the guidance.
- Institutions with multiple campuses will need to be addressed.
- Intent of the law is to have an office.
- OSU Main Campus does all the processing for its regional campuses.

Group Four

- This group has divided the work into two main parts: facilitating training and evaluating.
- There is a tentative timeline to work through the phases and types of training.
- Learning outcomes are being developed for each of the phases.
- The group is working closely with the ACE.
- An index of terms and acronyms will be attached.
- A baseline set of information is being developed.
- All will need to be translated into a webpage and have a home on the web.

Group Five

- This group is looking for examples of a framework of specific veterans policies.
- They would like to start with a policy template. The toolkit would be developed in tabs underneath it.
- The group would like to have a draft done by July 25th.
- Does anyone have policies for other student groups? Examples might help the group to establish a baseline and best practices. Please send the group anything that might be similar, career services, campus support services, etc.
- Dr. Chappell suggested that specific program handbooks be examined to make sure programs don't conflict with the institutional policy.
 - Mr. DeChant added that it should be explained during the orientation that there is an institution-wide policy, but it is important to check with the program, too. Awareness should be created that accrediting bodies may impose different requirements. There may be stipulations and program requirements to be discussed with a program manager before student enrollment.
- Question: How many schools in Ohio have signed the [DoD MOU](#)? According to the [list](#) on the website, two Ohio schools have signed so far.

V. Fall Convening Discussion

- The IUC Provost meeting is September 18, 2014. This will make it impossible to present very far in advance of the fall convening. The Provosts and CAOs will be copied on the letter from the Chancellor instead.
- There are currently 3 tentative dates for the fall convening: September 19th, 26th, and October 3rd.
- A proposal has been sent to Huntingdon Bank.
 - i. Huntingdon's building cannot handle the breakout sessions. Another location will be needed.
- September 16th-18th the State Approving Agency (SAA) is having its annual meeting at Franklin University.
- 5-6 people will be invited to the fall convening from each institution for around 200 people total.
- A student panel will be needed. The students will be invited to attend the breakout sessions, so they know what is happening. There will not be a separate student track.

- Attendees might be chosen from: students from veteran organizations/students involved in student government, directors of veterans services, registrars, academic affairs, career center/advisors, faculty members/faculty senate, transfer credit evaluators.
- Every institution might not bring 6 people due to a single person covering multiple roles.
- Representatives from academic affairs and faculty are very important to attend the convening.
- The Ohio National Guard volunteered to bring its color guard.
- A singer is needed for the national anthem. Perhaps a voice major.
- Mr. DeChant and Mr. Carrell will be the co-hosts of the day.
- The exact purpose of the student panel will need to be determined.
- A printed biography of each student will need to be in the printed program.
- Mr. Geoff Roberts, Dr. Henry's new graduate assistant, would be perfect for the panel.
- The student panel could talk about success and completion. Of course, not everything is rosy and wonderful. The challenges should also be discussed and how someone helped them overcome those challenges. Success stories of the items being discussed. Some of the schools are already doing the new mandates.
- The challenges that students experience should be demonstrated, i.e., inconsistency, lack of standardization. The reasons why we are doing this.
- It was suggested that a student video highlighting a problem would be a great way to begin each breakout.
- Mr. Eakins can ask the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation if anyone would like to provide a brief.
- Director Gorrell will be invited as a keynote speaker at lunch.
- A clear-cut distinction will need to be drawn between breakout sessions #2 and #3. #2 will cover the training that is coming up. #3 will cover actual transcript reading.
- Faculty who do ACE evaluations should run a session to talk about their experience. A list will be coming from Dr. Patricia Brewer. Perhaps she could also moderate.
- Unique breakout sessions should be added to the end to keep people in attendance.
 - i. Workforce Transformation could possibly do a session on credentials.
 - ii. Mr. DeChant can do a session on support resources that will include information on resources to help build a program and a panel of those who have already built a program.
- Everyone will reconvene for Next Steps before ending the day at 3pm.
- Ms. Beth Gerasimiak will provide names of people who have already built programs for the panel.
- Someone will welcome the Chancellor after 1:00 pm

VI. Next Steps

- There are 2.5 months for the MSIT to pull everything together in time for the convening.

- It will be critical to have the electronic toolbox to post. It should be completed for the September meeting.
- Samples of policies are needed by July 10th.
- A mention was made of the [Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit](#) signed by AACRAO and ACE in 2001.
- Send a photograph to Ms. Michelle Blaney (mblaney@regents.state.oh.us) for inclusion on the Valuing Ohio Veterans Initiative website.