

University of Washington
Faculty Council on Student Affairs
March 13th, 2018
1:30pm – 3:00pm
Odegaard Undergraduate Library 320

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to order
 2. Review of the minutes from February 13th, 2018
 3. Student Veteran's Affairs– Samantha Powers, Student Veteran Life
 4. Ramadan Accommodations – Navid Azodi, ASUW; Guests
 5. Emergency Aid Advisory Board – Kay Lewis, Office of Student Financial Aid
 6. Chair's Report:
 - a. Enrollment Management Update
 - b. Medical Excuse Note Policy Update
 7. Good of the order
 8. Adjourn
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1) Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

2) Review of the minutes from February 13th, 2018

The minutes from February 13th, 2018 were approved as amended.

3) Student Veteran's Affairs– Samantha Powers, Student Veteran Life

Samantha Powers (Director of Student Veteran Life) was present to inform the council on the services and programs provided by UW Student Veteran Life (SVL). She presented three handouts as part of her presentation (Exhibit 1) (Exhibit 2) (Exhibit 3).

Overview

Student Veteran Life was established in 2015 as a unit for student veterans founded by student veterans. The office can be found in the Husky Union Building room 327, while the corresponding Veteran Education Benefits Office (G.I. Bill and financial aid-oriented) is located in Schmitz Hall. It was noted the "Who We Are" handout includes information on the four primary pillars that guide the work of SVL day-to-day, including the Whole Veteran Initiative, Community Engagement, Advocacy, and Beyond the U (Exhibit 1).

Powers explained SVL coordinates a wide-ranging set of shared activities for UW student veterans throughout the academic year, from snowboarding trips to yoga sessions. The Office also offers mental health services to students by way of a full-time veteran support psychologist on the staff who is available to meet with students both for one-on-one sessions and in group settings. SVL also coordinates

annual events held on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. This year, the Memorial Day event will focus on suicide prevention.

Fall quarter 2016 data was shown relating to the UW student veteran population (Exhibit 2). There were over 3000 student veterans enrolled at the university at that time, with the average age of the population being 33, and 59% being graduate and professional students (Exhibit 2).

Powers explained SVL has a strong working relationship with Disability Resources for Students (DRS) and works to ensure veterans know about and are encouraged to use DRS as needed. Data related to UW student veteran support psychologist usage was highlighted (Exhibit 3).

Questions

A member asked if it is known why the population of student veterans at UW is higher than the national average, and why the population has many less first-generation students than the national average (Exhibit 2). Powers explained almost all of UW's student veterans are residents of the state of Washington, many transferring in from regional community colleges. Moreover, many are graduate students. Powers agreed some of the figures are disproportionate to the national average, and SVL is making efforts to gather data to answer these questions.

A member asked about the connection and/or consultation between SVL and a similar veteran's office at UW Tacoma. Powers explained the two offices do have a relationship, and provide support and recruiting services to each other, among other things. It was noted the UW Bothell veteran's support office was recently opened at that campus, and SVL is working to establish a deeper connection with that office.

A member encouraged SVL to attempt to facilitate establishing relationships between student and faculty veterans.

Powers explained one of the main goals of the office is to make contact with as many UW student, staff, and faculty veterans as possible. Last year, 43% of undergraduate student veterans visited/used a service provided by SVL. Though, she explained in relation to graduate student veterans, the percentage is far lower. SVL is working on introducing itself at more events at the start of the academic year to reach as many graduate students as possible.

Members thanked Powers for presenting, and Laws noted Powers should not hesitate to contact the FCSA if there is anything the council can do to support the office.

4) Ramadan Accommodations – Navid Azodi, ASUW; Guests

Mennah El-Gammal (ASUW Middle Eastern Student Commission Director), BJ Dondoyano (ASUW Student Senator), and FCSA student member Azodi were present to discuss religious accommodations for UW students and a related ASUW Student Senate resolution (Exhibit 4).

Dondoyano explained Ramadan is a one-month holiday in which strict fasting from food and water is observed from sunrise to sunset. A student explained he observed Ramadan for the first time during the last year, and found it incredibly difficult to study and effectively take exams under the physical conditions brought on from abstaining from food and water, which eventually forced him to stop

observing the holiday. Another student member noted she stayed up until 3:30 a.m. to engage in specialized prayer as part of observing the religious holiday, and her professor agreed to give her accommodations to take the final exam scheduled for the following morning at another time. The students noted the efforts on behalf of the ASUW are meant to increase the feasibility of students being granted these types of accommodations by UW faculty. A related ASUW resolution was shown, which includes specific recommendations concerning providing accommodations to students for religious reasons (Exhibit 4).

It was noted UW Scholastic Regulations policies include general statements on faculty providing students with accommodations if they have unavoidable absences. It was noted the related question is what constitutes an “unavoidable absence,” and are religious needs included in the scope of that language.

El-Gammal explained the student resolution states students should be eligible to make up exams or other academic requirements only if they “notified the instructor within two weeks of the first day of the quarter (or within the first week of summer session and short courses) of the specific days or dates on which he or she will request relief from an examination or academic requirement” (Exhibit 4).

A member noted he suspects this topic needs to be folded into a larger initiative to help students and instructors understand best practices for accommodating student absences in relation to a variety of absence-types. He noted the student/professor interaction related to requesting and/or providing accommodations is the main point where things often go awry. He noted he sees this as one aspect of a bigger set of ideas that are making their way through the university.

Conclusion

It was noted during the current academic year, Ramadan begins in mid-May, and the students noted they would like to make progress on these issues in time for the start of the holiday in order to empower Muslim students to request accommodation from their instructors. Additional discussion revealed the FCSA would not be able to submit new legislation/resolutions to the Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Senate for those body’s April meetings given existing agenda deadlines.

Ultimately, the students noted they understand that the Senate and SEC meetings operate on rigid timelines. It was noted additional aspects of the initiative include demonstrating inclusivity for UW’s Muslim student population and educating the wider university that these concerns exist. Members and guests agreed a large part of the UW community do not have a deep knowledge of Ramadan nor the effect fasting can have on students. There was some discussion of developing a related Class C resolution before the end of the academic year, if timelines allow.

The guests were thanked for presenting and they left the meeting.

5) Emergency Aid Advisory Board – Kay Lewis, Office of Student Financial Aid

Kay Lewis (Assistant Vice Provost for Enrollment/Executive Director of Financial Aid, Enrollment Management) was present to update on the UW’s Emergency Aid (EA) program, which began in April 2017, when the UW Seattle joined a national effort to tackle emergency financial aid, led through the Emergency Aid Lab (supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as part of their Postsecondary

Success program), in order to support students through financial crises. Lewis explained the UW Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) believes EA has been very effective in increasing the amount of students who come forward to seek university assistance in relation to difficult financial situations. A PowerPoint was shown as part of her presentation (Exhibit 5).

Information on new and continuing EA initiatives was shown in two related slides (Slide 4-5, Exhibit 5). Lewis explained many of the initiatives are designed to help students identify who they need to reach to apply for assistance, and to empower more students to contact the university if they are having financial issues. The EA Triage Team is 6-10 members in size. Currently, they anticipate adding some people to the triage system given its needs. It was noted OSFA is careful about where and how widespread EA is advertised in an attempt to not overwhelm the office. Lewis explained EA has a widget on many prominent UW student websites, and OSFA is looking into adding information on EA into the UW web tool, MyUW, to increase exposure.

Since October of 2017, EA has responded to 124 unique student cases across the three campuses, the majority of which were related to housing and food affordability issues. Over \$120,000 was disbursed via grants, scholarships, loans, food security grants, and short-term loans, and 51 of 53 students continued their enrollment at the UW after seeking and being granted assistance (Slide 6, Exhibit 5).

A few sample cases were shown (Slide 7, Exhibit 5). Lewis explained OSFA does not encourage the immediate taking out of students loans for each case, but it is a feasible outcome for some of the cases wherein long-term support is needed. It was noted EA cannot grant every request for financial assistance, as the program does have budget constraints.

It was noted a considerable percentage of UW students leave the university without a diploma due to financial difficulties, and the UW is working to help those students stay to finish their education through EA and OSFA.

Lewis was thanked for presenting on the topic.

6) Chair's Report

Enrollment Management update

Laws explained an influx of requests for "direct-to-major/college/division" admission models on behalf of UW colleges has arisen in the past few years, and has caused the university to critically consider its enrollment management strategies and policies in a variety of venues. He explained enrollment trends demonstrate a strong demand for highly capacity-constrained STEM majors on the part of new UW students. Moreover, the current UW enrollment management systems naturally favor admitting STEM-interested students over other applicants, as they tend to have better academic profiles upon application to the university. He noted high student demand has become increasingly evident for only a small subset of UW majors, though over 150 majors are offered at the institution. He noted that all these factors are contributing to a need for greater enrollment management efforts at the university. He asked members to critically consider these issues from the perspective of student affairs.

Medical Excuse Note Policy Update

Laws explained a new Medical Excuse Note Policy is in development by FCSA members in consultation with members of the Faculty Council on Academic Standards (FCAS). Some comments were made about the difficulties associated with development of such a policy. Laws explained he plans to present an update on the topic to FCAS in April.

7) Good of the order

A member brought up the practice of outside presenters attempting/requesting to use class time to make presentations to students enrolled in a course. She questioned if there are published parameters/policies for faculty accepting or rejecting requests to present to students during class times. There was some discussion. Ultimately, Laws noted this is a topic that can be considered by the FCSA and brought up in wider venues for deliberation. It was noted it is common to allow UW Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) to present for short amounts of time during a course, whereas presenters external to the university may have their requests more commonly denied.

8) Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes by Joey Burgess, jmbg@uw.edu, council support analyst

Present: **Faculty:** Ann Culligan, Chris Laws (chair), Mabel Ezeonwu
Ex-officio reps: Sumire Nakamura, Carolyn Martin, Navid Azodi, Warisha Soomru
President's designee: Lincoln Johnson
Guests: Kay Lewis, Mennah El-Gammal, BJ Dondoyano, Samantha Powers, Martha Tran

Absent: **Faculty:** Holly Barker, Christopher Campbell, Bruce Hevly, Jasmine Bryant
Ex-officio reps: Aileen Trilles

Exhibits

Exhibit 1 – svl_1.pdf

Exhibit 2 – svl_2.pdf

Exhibit 3 – svl_3.pdf

Exhibit 4 – Resolution in Support of the Institutionalization of Religious Accommodations at UW.pdf

Exhibit 5 – EA Update PPT 3.12.18.pdf

As an organization, we make it our mission to reach our new student veterans within their first 90 days on campus. In doing so, we hope to maintain communication throughout their time here, ensuring that they leave the UW with the most positive experience possible and a diploma in hand.

Military connected students makes up a large portion of the campus population. Including veterans, National Guard, reservists, active duty, and their dependents, nearly 7% of the total campus population is a member of the military community.

Veterans can be found across campus and in nearly every department. Of the 180 majors offered at UW, veterans are enrolled in 125 courses of study.



Whole Veteran Initiative

This effort offers hands-on, direct services to student veterans in an interactive way. This includes mental health therapies, art courses, and service dogs, as well as mindfulness, through yoga and meditation classes. We also focus on the body, as a measure of whole health, including outdoor recreation and rec sports teams for overall health.

Community Engagement

We are working to build a long-term community of Husky veterans through regular communications and mentorship. Through our annual events on campus, we celebrate our veterans and recognize the unique accomplishments of military veterans in their service to our country. The SVL team also works tirelessly to build relationships with internal and external constituents which allows us to maintain an evolving understanding of the veteran community both inside and outside of the UW.



Advocacy

As part of the SVL mission, we work to ensure that the unique needs of student veterans are represented in all facets of campus life. Through our advocacy, we work to ensure that student veterans are understood and supported by those who work with and educate our student veterans.

Beyond the U

This program is designed to ensure that our students leave the UW prepared for their next steps as a Husky alum. Through Beyond the U, student veterans can get information and help with find their next careers, connecting with other Husky alumni veterans, and engage with their community outside of the UW.





STUDENT VETERAN LIFE

ONCE SERVED, ALWAYS SERVED

Student Veteran Life was established in 2016 as a unit for student veterans, founded by student veterans. Our office is home to a staff of skilled veterans who help student veterans navigate the University of Washington. From campus locations to student resources, we are able to serve student veterans at any point in their college experience, whether it be their first day on campus or their graduation day. On average, the office sees 20-30 veterans per day, a number that is continuously growing!

As such, in order to build on the strength of organic and authentic community building and effectively bridge the civilian-military divide on campus, Student Veteran Life is led by a team of experienced and diverse veterans. Having former military service members who understand the transitional needs of student veterans is paramount to our success as a unit.

Transitioning student veterans need to have access to someone who has shared their unique experiences and has successfully navigated from service in the military to service as a civilian. Our unit serves a community of scholars who have served their country and now want to advance their lives and education at the University of Washington.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Student Veteran Life is to achieve three main objectives:

- Create centralized services and programming that supports student veterans and their dependents in their academic endeavors;
- Grow and strengthen the veteran community and identity by cultivating a sense of pride in the sacrifices that student veterans have made in service to their country; and
- Represent the unique position and needs of our veteran constituents.



Who are University of Washington student veterans?

Exhibit 2
Exhibit

Veterans on Campus

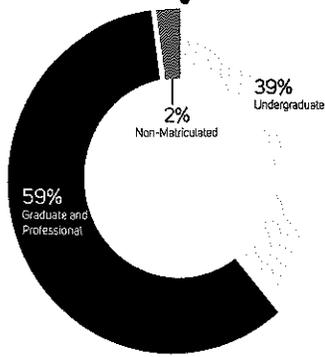
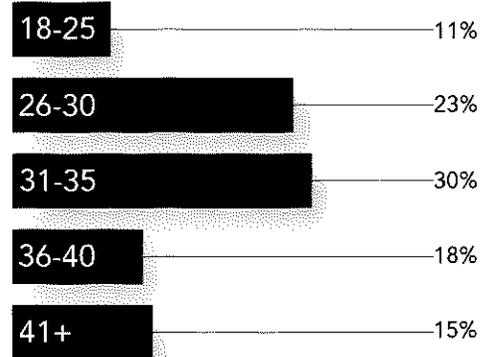
716	Veterans
65	National Guard
116	Reservists
146	Active Duty
2,100	Dependents
3,143	Total



33

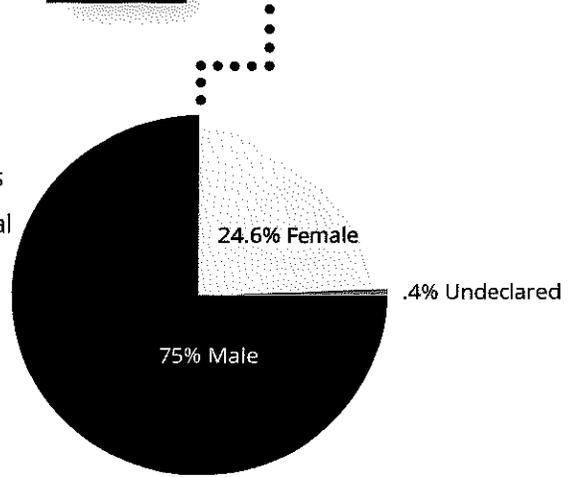
Is the average age of a University of Washington student veteran.

UW Student Veterans by Age



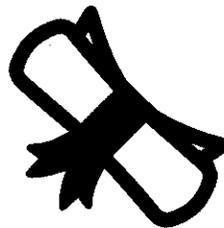
87

Student veterans were first generation college students when entering into the University of Washington. This number reflects 8% of the total student veteran population.



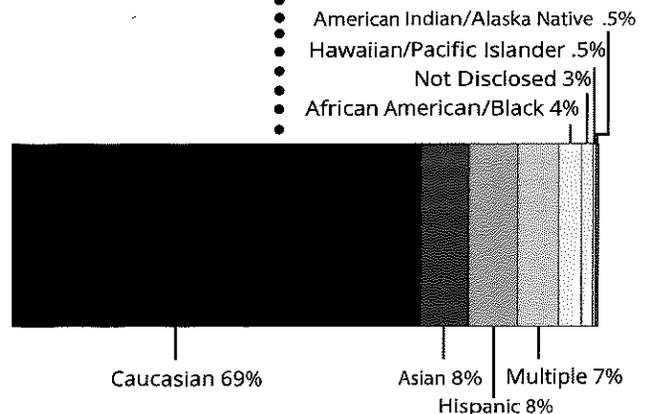
1,792

Student veterans have earned degrees since 2012.



3.45

The average GPA of all student veterans at the University of Washington.

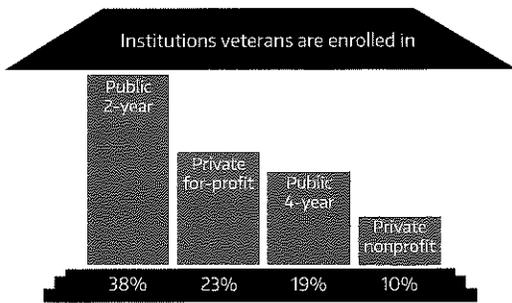


*All data is based on 2016-2017 enrollment information about the University of Washington Seattle student veterans.

**The term veteran includes discharged veterans, active duty servicemembers, National Guard, and reservist. The term military-connected students includes veterans and dependents of veterans, including spouses and children.

National statistics on student veterans

Student Veteran Life uses national, state, county and local data to drive decisions regarding the services we offer and the programs we develop to support student veterans at the University of Washington. In order to understand the unique student veteran population locally, we need to understand the overall population at all of these levels both quantitatively and qualitatively. Using this data, we can then cater our programs and services to those we are charged with serving in purposeful and lasting ways. In this manner, we ensure that each student veteran has the most meaningful Husky experience at the University of Washington and beyond.



44%
of undergraduate student veterans are married.



62%
of student veterans are first generation college students.

33%

of post-9/11 veterans do not feel they have the education and skills to be competitive in the civilian job market.



42%
of student veterans work while in college



1 in 5
veterans major in STEM fields.



2 in 5
veterans do not receive GI Bill benefits.



29%
of all post-9/11 veterans have a service-connected disability.



52%
of undergraduate student veterans have dependents.

25

is the average age of a student veteran when they begin their post-secondary education.



Sources: American Council on Education, National Conference of State Legislatures, Pat Tillman Foundation and Operation College Promise, Student Veterans of America, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington Post, and the Kaiser Family Foundation.

STUDENT VETERAN LIFE

Exhibit

Veteran Support Psychologist Usage Data - Q1

Laura Boye, Psy. D.

Veteran Support Psychologist
University of Washington
Counseling Center
Student Veteran Life

Start date: September 5, 2017
First intake: September 13, 2017

Student Veteran Demographics:

Active Duty	161
Discharged Veteran	688
National Guard	74
Reservist	122
Spouse/Dependent	2,282
Grand Total	3,327

Highlights and Numbers

- 54 unique clients were seen in Q1. 8 were veterans and 38.5% had never received mental health counseling before current treatment episode. 7 additional veterans sought consultation.
- During 2016-2017 academic year, 21 military connected students were seen by UW Counseling Center.

From 9/1/2017 to 1/22/18, 20 military connected students have been seen by UW Counseling Center.
- Provided consultation to staff on supporting student veterans and their mental health.
- 5/8 student veterans seen had never received mental health counseling before.
- 3/8 student veterans seen reported an unwanted sexual experience.
- 50% of student veterans were graduate students.

