**UUP Veteran Affairs Committee Meeting Notes at DA**

**February 4, 2011 (1:55pm – 3:00 pm)**

Attendance list taken by Bill Borgstede

The following discussion topics were made during the meeting:

1. **The Veterans Day Parade**: Bob K. discussed that our committee members should have UUP hats with some type of insignia that shows there are veterans in this organization. He saw certain hats worn at this parade and this committee agreed to have Bob check further into this idea for cost. (**OPEN ITEM)**
2. **Buffalo 20/20:** discussed what is going on about this topic at our campuses and how campus management and the campus Presidents are supportive of it and UUP is against it. We felt that the public does not know enough about UUP opinion about this topic and the public generally only hears what the SUNY Chancellor wants from her office.

--Discussed the overall issues with 20/20 hierarchy plan over what each department can do. ESF has combined some departments and through attrition has decreased the number of faculty. It is harder to retrench a department.

1. Veteran Students having Problems on Campus: Discussed veteran students using their GI bill and what can be done to assist these students on campus. At Upstate Medical a group was formed by the student vets and they are now involved with the campus administration to better understand their issues. A group being formed on a campus must be formed by the students themselves. Having someone else that is not one of these students start a group will most likely fail.

a. The question was asked, what is SUNY administration doing to increase enrollment for veterans?

b. Discussed the findings that Barry Morgan told Gina D. about the drop-out rate with veteran students are very high due to many reasons. A veteran comes to college with a different list of challenges and problems than a non-veteran student. The question was asked if Barry knew if a mentor program was involved for these students before they dropped out of college or not. Gina will contact Barry **(OPEN ITEM**).*3/3/11 Gina emailed Barry about this topic.*

c. Ask Phil Smith to ask SUNY for data on what veterans come to campus as a student on the GI bill and then leave. Also can he have all campus Institutional Research departments obtain information about their veteran students to find out the number and how long they have been a student. (**OPEN ITEM**).

d. Idea to have Bill Krause from the Veteran Affairs Administration come to discuss the GI bill at the next May DA. He may be able to fill us in on what guidelines veterans have to adhere to. Also ask Bill has the Veterans Administration reached out to other higher education organizations to advertise forums on what veterans need to know if they want to pursue a college degree. **(OPEN ITEM***) \*3/3/2011: Gina emailed Bill to invite him to speak on May 6, 2011.*

e. Veteran Students may have different needs and problems to work through than a non-veteran student, especially veterans that have served a tour or more in the war. There are issues the veteran experiences that need to be known by campus course advisers, counselors, admission departments to name a few and the problems can be:

\* The veteran had a bad academic experience before and feels little confidence in the experience of going to a college.

\*The veteran may need counseling with losing their home, getting a divorce, post traumatic stress, feel like a failure for dropping out of a course or getting an incomplete in a course. Remedial courses may be needed.

\*A campus may need more assistance to help veteran students be successful to complete a 4 or 6 year education.

\*Bill B. brought up an early acceptance program was his experience in the military. His academic records were sent ahead of time for college starting while he was in the military but discharging in time to start college courses. Maybe Phil could check into this. **(OPEN ITEM)**

\*Idea: Receive information from campus Institutional Research on what is the attrition rate for veterans and find out what are the policies at the campus for the veteran. **(OPEN ITEM)**

The meeting adjourned around 3:00 pm

Meeting notes written by: Gina Doty