

**Military Student Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**October 31, 2019**

1. Veteran Reconnect Conference Grant Award: From Boots to Suits!
  - Discussed conference grant intent, UTC awardee of grant, agenda, website, registration, vendors, and collaboration with on campus and off campus partners. Save the date June 15th-16th, 2020
2. Applied for Veteran Reconnect Grant focusing on veteran mentoring, case management, and veteran specific orientation.
  - Announcement of awards-November 20, 2019.
3. September 11<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Remembrance Walk
  - 400 people attended. Thanked ROTC, campus involvement in event.
  - Attendees were students, faculty, staff, and community members.
  - Attention for the event went state wide, our most widely followed event.
4. Student Veteran Organization Update
  - Updates given by Haley Sebastian, SVO president.
  - Increase in SVO active membership from 10 to 31 members, 14 pending.
  - SVO Leadership filled with five board members.
  - Looking to send 1-2 SVO student members to NATCON 2020. Need a minimum of 3,000 per attendee.
  - Lack of time to raise money through concessions but spoke of SVO coins.
  - Shared avenues for donating to SVO. Linda will send out information to attendees via email.
  - Money can be donated to the SVO through VENMO app or by using the “DONATE” button located at this link <https://www.utc.edu/veteran-student-services/studentveteranorganization.php>
  - Mentioned the desire to have a lending library, to reduce cost for student veterans. List books available to students. Sharing used book no longer needed by another students who would like to donate them. Or through departments donating books to the lending library cause.
5. UTC Represented at the SVO Summit in Nashville, TN in September
  - Linda Hinkle presented on the importance of student veteran peer mentorship at SVO summit.
  - Three of the five SVO leadership board members also attended the summit.

#### 6. Introduction of Our New East Tennessee Veterans Education Coordinator

- Gregg Crawford introduced the new coordinator, Dan Wolgast to MSAC and his new role for TDVS.
- Dan Wolgast, previous UTC 2x alumni. Worked for VA work-study in 2013, for Squoia.
- Dan spoke of the new state focus being less on education but on gainful employment and spirituality. Looking at the time the student graduates, to gainful employment, and retention in career.
- Mentioned Unum doing it right, diploma to career.
- Dan previously worked for State of Tennessee and office location was in Eastgate Loop. Dan lives in Chattanooga and hopes to establish an office on UTC campus.

#### 7. Questions and Feedback Ideas for Veteran Programs

- Dean Pack-Mentioned the drop in enrollment of student veterans in ENGR department.
- He discussed the future endeavor of visiting and working with military bases for enrollment.
- He also mentioned STEM majors being prime for veterans.
- Joshua Mason mentioned DRC grant for workshop for transitioning students.
- Squoia-Provided MSAC with information on the new VA initiative to encourage students to seek degrees in STEM. Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship, that gives extra benefits to students training in the high demand fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Providing up to nine months of additional Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits (or a maximum of \$30,000) to qualifying Veterans.
- Squoia mentioned our continued efforts to track and assess student interactions in lounge, computer lab, and offices through kiosk, surveys, to identify needs and support of student veterans.
- Linda-Mentioned the survey to self-identify faculty/staff veterans and supporters. Linda mentioned SVO involvement with DRC and awareness of service dogs on campus.
- Kelly Drake - Mentioned the need for more incentives such as a discount sticker program. It was confirmed we already have discount stickers in place, but that we will work to better communicate knowledge of the program

## MSAC Email Update

11/21/2019

1. Military Appreciation Week saw three successful events on campus to show appreciation for our UTC veterans and their service.
  - The Veterans Day Luncheon was a great success! Well attended by veteran students, veteran faculty, and veteran staff members. What a wonderful start to a week of events to say thank you for your service.
  - The Veterans Appreciation Breakfast was well attended as well, as campus leadership came in to serve our veterans to thank them for their service to this country.
  - The write a note to thank a veteran event saw many stop to write a note to say thanks or to honor the memory of a veteran.
2. Military Appreciation Tailgate and Game
  - The military appreciation tailgate was a tremendous success as student veterans and their families came together with veteran faculty and staff members, as well as community veterans to share some delicious barbecue and chili and spend some time together. UTC versus the Citadel was a gripping game which saw UTC win by one point ahead of the Citadel as the final score!
3. We are proud to announce that UTC did indeed win one of the Veteran Reconnect Grants in the state of Tennessee! Our grant focuses on a student veteran mentoring program and case management for academic success! Expect more exciting news about this in the spring!
4. Please join us at our last event of the semester:

### **Veteran Student Services Graduation Celebration**

December 11, 2019, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Tennessee Room

Come and celebrate with our Student Veteran and Military Family Member Graduates!