



The Smart Choice!

Student Services Council

November 27, 2018

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Laura McBride, Mary Kate Morgan, Shannon Vantrease, Rosie Leno, Alexis Doble, Sue Orchard, Kara McElroy, Shannon Wachob, Marie Boisvert, Shain Wright, Lisa Wilkinson, Darren Schwegler, Kristie Gutierrez, Byron Ford, Rosemary Perkins, Brittany Deal, Stacey Sowders, Paz Clearwater, Mikayla Springob, Ian Triana, Donovan Tate, Julie Bohannon, Cherene Crowson, Katie Sully, Jennifer Houge, Serena Lampkin, Maya Rudolph, Jessica Harris, Matt Johnson, Carmilla Rollins, Jenny Smith, Heather Wooldridge, Connie O'Brien-Larson, Sue Orchard

Guests: Brian Bales

Agenda:

- Introductions - favorite holiday tradition
- “Engaging Student Veterans – Cultural Competency” : Bryan Bales, Veteran Peer Corps Program Coordinator (10-11am presentation)
 - Objectives:
 - Review veteran stereotypes
 - Describe examples of Battlemind v. homemind
 - Define post-traumatic growth
 - Define 2nd mission
 - What “service” means:
 - People who enlist lose their civil rights (you cannot sue your employer)
 - Lose your freedom of expression
 - Lose your independence
 - Lose your place in line (employment, education, etc.)
 - Post-traumatic stress
 - Family instability
 - Family are often overlooked and not able to find employment
 - Stereotypes:
 - Ticking time-bombs
 - Only respond to yelling/barking orders
 - Mindless
 - All suffer from PTSD

- All have killed someone
 - Conservative
- Education
 - With support on-campus, veterans excel and can earn higher wages (based on their degree earned) than those who did not serve in the military.
 - Students who get involved will be more successful
- What strengths, skills, talents, and values are taught and learned in the military by us or those we serve?
 - Self-discipline
 - First aid
 - Leadership
 - Teamwork
 - Goal-oriented
 - IT skills
 - Character
 - Decision-making
 - Resiliency
- Battlemind - Homemind:
 - Trust Buddies: person who has your back and knows your experience. At home - Vets can feel isolated and avoid.
 - Accountability/control: having a strict, specific schedule. At home - details remain important. Vets have a need for structure.
 - Targeted Aggression (anger/adrenalin): The idea is that if you get mad enough you will overcome and fix the problem - the military targets that toward the enemy. Anger is a tool. At home - quick reactions and frustration.
 - Tactical awareness: knowing where you are, where the exits are, where the enemy is, etc. everything you need to know to survive. At home - quick decisions/snap reactions happen bc/that has been the experience.
 - Lethally armed. At home - vigilance about surroundings - world is not about absolutes.
 - Emotional Control (detachment): not thinking about enemies as people or humans. Not letting yourself process death. At home - anxious in crowds (traumatic brain injuries are the most common injury and often from IED's which often are placed in crowds). Guilt/loss will happen and it will come back which is why counseling services are so important. Controlling emotions is difficult.
 - Individual Responsibility: even at a lower ranking, you can be in charge of expensive equipment.
 - Discipline/Order: people in the military never question an order. At home - inflexible interactions
- Post-Traumatic Growth:

- “The experience of positive change resulting from the struggle with major life crisis.”
 - New opportunities & possibilities
 - Change in relationships & connection to others who suffer
 - Increased sense of one’s own strength
 - Greater appreciation of life in general
 - Deepening of spiritual life and change in belief system
- Second Mission: Finding another way to serve/finding your community
 - Will you witness strengths, skills, talents, and values applied in a new way?
 - How aware are you or the veteran about the impact of military training and experiences on his/her life?
 - Post-deployment: civilian to military (1-10)
 - It will be helpful to guide the veteran with the following: “what does it mean for you to become a civilian again?”
 - At some point there will be a need to learn which military characteristics to apply and not apply
 - How can you be a liaison and ambassador between military and civilian culture?
 - Awareness of opportunities/resources to help engage vet students
 - Helping vet students find value in education system
 - “Now, After” by Kyle Hausmann Stokes
- International Programs: Looking for departments to participate in scavenger hunt for new international students
 - Anyone interested in participating please let Marie Boisvert know
- Holiday Party change in date/time

Meeting Adjourned.