



# MINUTES

## Military, Veterans and First Responders Task Force

Date: March 12, 2020

Location: Rhatigan Student Center Room 203 (Lancelot Room) Meeting

Time: 9:00a – 10:30

Attendees: Michael Bearth, Larry Burks, Deanna Carrithers, Chief Rodney Clark, Lai-L Daugherty Darin Kater, Sally Fiscus, Will Fulls, Donna Hughes, Joe Jabara, Lainie Mazzulo, Dr. Susan Norton, and Randy Sessions, Dr. Chris Stone, Retired Colonel Don Gaylor

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chief Clark opened the meeting of the Military, Veterans, and First Responders Task Force by welcoming everyone and providing clarification about future meetings/ timelines.
- II. **Review Purpose of the Task Force** – Chief Clark provided an updated timeline in which the task force needed to provide final recommendations in preparation for presentation to Dr. Golden. Chief Clark provided an overview of the agenda for the day that would consist of open dialogue from the task force to provide pillar updates. Deanna Carrithers provided information to the task force regarding final draft submissions and charged each pillar group to submit their top three recommendations for review by the end of the week. Chief Clark provided insight to the task force about the process of how recommendations will be submitted to Dr. Golden for his review.
- III. **Pillar Group Updates** – Chief Clark informed the task force that recommendations have been and will continue to be compiled and these items will be prioritized accordingly. The task force provided updates on specific pillar groups.
  - a. Randy Sessions provided an update of the research pillar group. Examination of other universities illustrated incorporating a one-stop shop for student veterans, non-resident veterans residential living around apartment complexes, and integrating ROTC.
  - b. Colonels suggested creating a package that utilized the Air Force in conjunction with WSU to further workforce opportunities.
  - c. Donna Hughes provided an update on first responders and current services. Majors targeted to the training, transfer credit/ articulation agreements with community colleges.
  - d. Dr. Susan Norton updated the task force with the Shocker Pathway and the discussed the option of updating the Military Leave of Absence (MLOA) policy to incorporate first responders.
  - e. Dr. Chris Stone and Joe Jabara talk to the updates from future plans. Streamlining services, issues facing admissions and transcripts, articulation agreements, and organizing research centers for military, veterans, and first responders.
  - f. Will Fulls provided an update to current services for military, veterans, and dependents. Will updated on current services such as expanding the veteran center, expanding counseling services for student veterans, expanding on staff and faculty training.



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF DIVERSITY AND  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- g. Darin Kater updated the task force to funding options from the Foundation and the various campaigns that can be generated once recommendations are solidified and approved.
  - h. Dr. Susan Norton expanded on a departmental scholarship program that is self-funded by the staff in Adult Learning to generate scholarship opportunities.
  - i. Chief Clark elaborated to potential building relocation to facilitate a one campus mentality joining innovation and main campus.
  - j. Deanna Carrithers elaborated on the importance accessibility, diversity, and inclusion as we move forward to engage students and other community partners with regards to recommendations.
  - k. Michael Bearth spoke to the SGA point of view and suggested the Henrion building as possibility to house military, veterans, and first responders.
- IV. **Draft of Report** – Chief Clark elaborated that a draft of the report is in progress and will be finalized after the final recommendations are submitted. Deanna Carrithers would be responsible for collecting, organizing and disseminating the report. Deanna Carrithers indicated she would send a draft to the group once it is available.
- V. **Task Force Assignments and Next Steps** – Chief Clark and Deanna Carrithers discussed objectives that need to be accomplished as the task force moves closer to the final deadline.
- a. Prepare to share pillar ideas/recommendations to Dr. Golden
  - b. Submitting head shots and additional recommendations to Deanna Carrithers
  - c. Deanna Carrithers provided updates about submitting documentation, discrepancies, and task force inquiries.
- VI. **Next Meeting** – Chief Clark informed the members of the task force that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, March 26 at 9a in RSC 203 (Lancelot Room).



WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

DIVISION OF DIVERSITY AND  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT