

September 18, 2023

Committee for the Recruitment and Retention of Student Veterans

Scott Althaus, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, *Chair*

Andy Bender, Chez Veterans Center

Doug Burgett, Office of Undergraduate Admissions

Stephen Bryan, Office of the Dean of Students

Capt David J. Casteel, Navy ROTC

Meghan Hazen, Office of the Registrar

Lt Col Dan Johnson, Army ROTC

Michael Lotspeich-Yadao, Chez Veterans Center

Jason Sakowski, Chez Veterans Center

Lt Col Jason Scalzitti, Air Force ROTC

Michelle Trame, Office of Student Financial Aid

Jay Estes, Student Veteran

Mackenzie Hallgren, Student Veteran

Kristi Kuntz, Office of the Provost, *ex-officio*

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Committee for the Recruitment and Retention of Student Veterans. Your work on this committee will inform the strategic direction for the recruitment of prospective student veterans to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as well as shape priorities for improving the network of services available on our campus.

In the year ahead, the committee's continued focus should:

- 1) Prioritize for action the most pressing needs facing veteran students and suggest strategies for addressing these needs.
- 2) Recommend changes to policies and practices to support the needs of student veterans.
- 3) Advocate by connecting with campus units that address academic issues associated with the unique opportunities and experiences these students bring to campus.
- 4) Establish structures and practices that acknowledge the importance of this group of students to the university community.
- 5) Outline a strategy for enhancing collaborations between the Office of Student Financial Aid, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, College Offices, and the Chez Veterans Center to improve communication with prospective student veterans and lower barriers in the recruitment, admissions and financial aid processes; and
- 6) As requested by the Chez Veterans Center, provide feedback and offer expertise on various initiatives aimed to improve the student veteran experience.

The 2019 Military Veterans Academic Credit Self-Study continues to be an important point of reference in helping our institution identify best practices for welcoming veterans pursuing opportunities to enroll at Illinois and completing an undergraduate degree and should inform the approach to your efforts.

As Vice Provost, I will be available to discuss your committee's charge at the first meeting on October 4, 2023. Recommendations from the committee may be shared with my office at any time with an annual report of activities due May 15, 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Jackson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Jackson

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

