Veterans Affairs Office

Budget Presentation
February 11, 2009
Lynn R. Perry, Veterans Affairs Coordinator
Office of Enrollment Management
The mission of the Veterans Affairs Office is to assist servicemembers, veterans, and dependents in receiving entitled educational benefits and in achieving educational goals.

Expanding military-friendly services and programs for America’s returning military members by preparing for the implementation of the new GI Bill in August 2009.

Adopting the Military Student Bill of Rights and participating in the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC).

Encouraging student organizations, such as the United Student Veteran Organization (USVO) and the Islander Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Battalion.
Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008

• Tuition and fees for eligible veteran students paid by the Dept of Veterans Affairs to the University
• Housing allowance of $1,150 per month
• Book and supply stipend of up to $1,000 per academic year

“More veterans will have the resources to attend four-year institutions…”

Excerpt from TAMU System Chancellor Michael D. McKinney, M.D.
23 Sept 08 Memorandum, Subj: Mission Military Friendly
Influx of Veteran Students

“The Dept of Veterans Affairs estimates that the number of veteran students attending college by 2010 will increase by 20-25 percent over the current enrollment levels.”

Kathy M. Snead, President, SOC Consortium
Veteran Students Certified Plus Hazlewood

Number of TAMU-CC students certified for veterans educational benefits plus Hazlewood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Benefit</th>
<th>2007-08</th>
<th>2008-09</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Servicemember and Veteran</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>271*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Veteran under Hazlewood</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>394</td>
<td>455</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Using the VA estimate of 25% expected increase
Active Duty and Family

There are an additional 64 active duty service and family members that are enrolled for 08-09 academic year that may be eligible for the new GI Bill benefits.

Total number of active duty servicemembers, veterans, and dependents on campus is 458
The Veterans Affairs Office is striving to effectively manage all of the programs and services it has developed for veterans, and due to the limited space in the office cubicle, and the growing number of veterans enrolling at the University, two additional FTEs and workstudy students are requested. A veterans center and adjoining office to properly secure veteran files is respectfully requested.
Veterans Affairs Budget Request
-Personnel and Recruitment (Recurring)-

Two Full Time Employees* at $24,000 each plus benefits is $64,800

Veteran workstudy students* 2@$9/hr x 20 hr week x 44 weeks $15,840

Subtotal $80,640

Recruitment/Travel Expenses* $10,000

This expense includes travel to military installations throughout Texas, purchase of a setup table and display board, printing cost of all brochures and handouts, and newspaper ads in communication strategy for military members to use the new GI Bill at TAMU-CC

Total=$90,640
Justification for Additional FTEs and Workstudy Students

Recommendation from the ELR of TX is one employee for every 100 veteran students, we are currently understaffed by 3 employees

Estimated 2010 veteran students certified for benefits in the Veterans Affairs Office plus Hazlewood is 455

VA Office is critically understaffed with only one FTE. The new GI Bill creates an additional workload, of up to 25%.

**First employee** is needed for benefits counseling on the new GI Bill, assist with veteran orientation, and to man the VTC

**Second employee** is needed as second certifying official to the Dept of Veterans Affairs, file maintenance, and to administer Hazlewood benefits

**Workstudy students would be hired for the Transition Center and to assist with the new GI Bill**
**Veterans Affairs Budget Request**

-VTC*-(One-time, non-recurring)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tr>
<td>Desktop computers, 3</td>
<td>$2,994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laptop computers, 3</td>
<td>$3,486</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer workstations/chairs, 3</td>
<td>$1,056</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sofa, upholstered chairs, and tables</td>
<td>$3,697</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference table and chairs, 10</td>
<td>$1,636</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office furniture</td>
<td>$2,592</td>
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<tr>
<td>Refrigerator and microwave</td>
<td>$1,023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin board</td>
<td>$226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total = $16,710**

Furniture would provide lumbar support for veterans with disability
Veterans Transition Center, VTC

Functional and welcoming

- Establish a “one-stop” veterans service center
- Common area for veteran and civilian students to meet for better assimilation
- Adjoining office area to enable certifying official and veteran to sit down to discuss benefits
- Secure veteran files, as opposed to open cubicle
- Prospective students tour VTC to meet USVO students that will mentor them
- Computer access for application to University and VONAPP; laptops for disabled veterans
- USVO meetings, study groups, and support groups by Counseling Center and Disability Services
Strategic Plans for Veterans Affairs

- Enhanced recruitment at military installations
- Provide benefits counseling and implement the new GI bill
- Computer workstations and laptops for veterans with disability
- Admissions and retention of veterans with coordination of efforts from: Admissions, Advising, CASA, Disability, and Counseling
- Communication strategies specifically for military members to include: TAP, Islander newsletter for veterans each term
- USVO Veteran Mentor Program and Veterans Advisory Panel
- Islander care packages to deployed servicemembers and other USVO drives
VA Budget Summary

One Time Expenditure
Veterans Transition Center (VTC) $16,710

New Full Time Positions
New GI Bill Benefits Counselor* Base $24,000 + 35% benefits $32,400
Second Certifying official* Base $24,000 + 35% benefits $32,400
VA workstudy students* 2 @ $9 per hr/20hrs per w/44wks $15,840
Recruitment/Travel Expenses* includes brochures, etc.* $10,000

Total $107,350

* Respectfully requested at this time, prior to next fiscal year