

## **Faculty Senate – 11/10/2017**

### **Updates from Student Affairs**

#### **Advising Veterans or Students with Veteran Benefits**

In order for students to receive full-time student veteran benefits, they must be full-time for the entire term. If the student is taking courses with non-standard terms, they may fall below full-time status – give example of a student with 14 credits with 3 credits in a non-standard term.

Recommendation – when advising, please ask students if they are receiving veteran benefits, if so please work to keep them in full-time status for the entire term.

Change of Major: If a student is considering change of major, they need to complete the change of major form when they begin taking courses specifically for that new major. Otherwise, they will be certified under their recognized major and may not be covered by veteran benefits. Forestry to Nursing example.

After classes begin, if any student receiving veteran benefits changes their schedule, they should be referred to Lisa DeGregorio.

Challenges with errors in term data – through VA terms end at the end of the exam period. PSMA has been listed them as the day classes end. We made the correction for fall but this may create audit issues for us this spring.

#### **Community Service / Service Learning**

Alternative Spring Break trip to Montréal – applications available now in Campus Life (deadline 12/15/2017)

- Supports two strategic goals – increase students participating in service and increase international education travel experiences for students.
- Community Service intern in Student Affairs for Spring 2018 to focus on expanding our service opportunities. As faculty begin to plan courses and syllabi for Fall 2018, if you are interested incorporating service into your courses, Student Affairs would like to assist in making that happen and begin to move us from community service projects to service learning opportunities.

#### **UNITY Week – March 18<sup>th</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup> 2018**

In support of Penn State's 'All In' initiative, PSMA will be celebrating our first 'UNITY Week' Programming Series.

'All In' principles:

- Promote inclusion.
- Encourage civil discourse.
- Challenge all perspectives.

Opportunities for Faculty Involvement

- Encourage students to attend UNITY Week programming.
- Plan and open classes that week that address topics listed in the principles above.
- Create, co-sponsor and / participate in programs offering.

Programs (tentative) in the works:

- Gospel Brunch / Campus Symposium / Loteria ('Mexican Bingo') / Transgender Guest Speaker / Trip to DC's American Museum of American American History / International Food Stations M-F in the Mill themed after the countries where our international students are from / Conversations with the Chancellor – Focus on Diversity / Lessons Learned from ASB / and MORE!

Unity Week will be a focus area for the Campus Climate Committee.