

To: Members of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees
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From: Joe Rives, Vice President, Quad Cities and Planning

Date: April 17, 2017

Re: April 2017 Strategic Plan Update

With the recent establishment of a new university-wide task force, this month's Strategic Plan Update seeks your input on ways for Western Illinois University to increase its service to military students and their families. Our shared actions will advance student success, and the University's long-standing traditions and national recognitions as a Military Friendly Institution.

In providing background for this request, a university-wide task force was formed to provide President Thomas and the President's Leadership Team with recommendations to increase the outreach, recruitment, and retention of active military students, reservists, veterans, and their families. Task force members are:

- Joe Rives, Vice President, Quad Cities and Planning, Chairperson
- Brad Bainter, Vice President, Advancement and Public Services
- Matt Bierman, Interim Vice President, Administrative Services
- Michael Carton, Director, Education and Outreach, WQPT
- Craig Conrad, Chairperson, Management and Marketing
- Jared Fortner, Student, Recreation, Park, and Tourism Administration
- Jeff Hancks, Interim Director, School of Distance Learning, International Studies, and Outreach
- John Kennealy, Student, Computer Science and Political Science
- Alison McGaughey, Public Information Specialist
- Kathy Meyers, Assistant Director, Student Assistance Center
- Seth Miner, Director, Admissions
- Ron Pettigrew, Academic Advisor, Distance Education Support
- Larry Pickett, Academic Advisor, Distance Education Support
- Rob Rinell, Student Athletic Training
- Curtis Williams, Associate Director, Student Services
- Ron Williams, Interim Vice President, Student Services

The Task Force has met two times this spring to baseline current military outreach, recruitment, and retention actions, and to begin discussing opportunities and challenges in these areas. We recently added three students representing both campuses to the Task Force. We will continue meeting through the summer and fall to complete our work.

Please contact me if you have:

1. Programs, services, and/or events specifically targeted to the military. This will help our Task Force in understanding and documenting how the University recruits and serves this population of students.

2. Ideas that the Task Force should explore in accordance with our charge.
3. Interest in actively serving on the Task Force this summer and fall.

Please also contact me if you have feedback for the continued successful advancement of the University's *Strategic Plan*.

cc: President Thomas CSEC President Dorethy SGA President Frank
 Interim Provost Neumann COAP President Koltzenburg Associate Provost Parsons
 Vice President Bainter Faculty Council Ch. Pillutla Associate Provost Morgan
 Interim Vice President Williams Faculty Senate Chair Pynes Planning, Budget, and IR Staff
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