**Advisors & Counselors Network**

**November 9th, 2021**

**8:30 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.**

**Teams link:** See Below – recording will be posted on ACN website

Members Present: ~85

Welcome:

1. **Military Services and Benefits** - Services and veteran/active duty student information

*Jim Schmidt from MEBO & Groovy Cocroft from MAVRC*

* 1. About
     1. UWM has the largest military-related student population in the UW System
     2. The Military and Veterans Resource Center opened as a student lounge in November of 2012 and expanded in 2015 to include a computer/study area and staff offices
     3. MAVRC is located in the Student Union, Room WG99
     4. MAVRC is staffed by a Director, Assistant Director and VA Work Study student staff
  2. Staff:
     1. Yolanda Medina – Director (US Marine Corps)
     2. James Groovy Cocroft – Assistant Director (Navy Retired)
     3. Office email - [mavrc@uwm.edu](mailto:mavrc@uwm.edu)
     4. Phone: 414-229-7211
  3. Military and Veterans Resource Office - ***MISSION:*** 
     1. Serve as the first stop of support for all military-related students
     2. Educate the UWM campus and Milwaukee community about military service, support and awareness programs
     3. Offer a safe space on campus for military-related students
     4. Establish community partnerships that provide opportunities for student veterans to build bridges into the Milwaukee community for future employment, as well as civic and cultural engagement​
  4. MAVRC Resources
     1. “MAVRC Hours”
     2. M-Th, 0800-1630, Friday 0900-1500
     3. Provide resource referrals
     4. Offer signature events: Veterans Week, Graduation Ceremonies, Project 22, Military & Veterans Ball
     5. Create programming and partner with campus groups for: orientations, employment services, scholarship application assistance, corporate partners networking sessions and more
  5. Campus Resources
     1. Student Veterans of America UWM Chapter (SVA)
     2. Military Education Benefits Office (MEBO)
     3. Career Planning and Resource Center (CPaRC)
     4. VetSuccess on Campus (VSoC)
     5. Veterans Upward Bound (VUB)
     6. Accessibility Resource Center (ARC)
     7. Panther Academic Support Services (PASS)
     8. Norris Health Center (You@UWM)
     9. UWM Libraries
     10. Honors College and academic departments
     11. Milwaukee VA Regional Benefits Office
     12. Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center
     13. Milwaukee Vet Center
     14. American Legion
     15. Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
     16. And more!
  6. Adjustment to Campus
     1. **Environment**
        1. Four-year, public, brick and mortar campus
        2. Formal structure and procedures do exist, but they are not always obvious
     2. **Culture**
        1. Classmate behaviors based on generational behaviors: arriving late, texting and using social media, talking during class
     3. **Circumstances**
        1. Variation in instructors’ roles: full-time faculty, part-time instructors, and teaching assistants (graduate students)
        2. Academic advisors help with choosing classes needed for your academic program - May only be familiar with courses in your major.
  7. MEBO
     1. **Location:**  
        Mellencamp Hall #168A  
        2442 E Kenwood Blvd  
        Milwaukee, WI 53211
     2. **Hours:**  
        Mon-Thur: 9am – 4:30pm
     3. Friday: 9am – 3pm
     4. **Phone:** [(414) 229-6627](tel:4142296627)  
        **Email:** [vets@uwm.edu](mailto:vets@uwm.edu)
     5. **James Schmidt**  
        Veteran Services Coordinator (Army)
     6. The MEBO is dedicated to providing accurate information and timely processing of State & Federal military educational benefits. Our office will work with you to answer any specific questions you may have regarding the Post 9/11 GI Bill, the Federal Montgomery GI Bill, the Wisconsin GI Bill, the National Guard Tuition Grant, VetEd Tuition Reimbursement, Students called to Active Duty, and Withdrawal policies. Open year-round to assist you with certification of your military education benefits.
     7. Which Benefit is right for me?
        1. Post 9/11 GI Bill (Ch.33)
        2. Montgomery GI Bill (Ch.1606)
        3. Montgomery GI Bill (Ch.30)
        4. Veterans Readiness & Employment - VRE (Ch.31)
        5. Dependents Educational Assistance (Ch.35)
        6. Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA)
        7. WI GI Bill
        8. National Guard Tuition Reimbursement Grant
        9. VetEd Tuition Reimbursement Grant
     8. Most popular options

**Veterans: Reserves / Guard:**

Post 9/11 GI Bill (Ch.33) Montgomery GI Bill (Ch.1606)

Veteran Readiness & Employment (Ch.31) Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA)

WI GI Bill WI GI Bill

VetEd Tuition Reimbursement Grant National Guard Tuition Grant

**Dependents/Spouses:**

Post 9/11 GI Bill – TOE (Ch.33)

Dependents Educational Assistance (Ch.35)

WI GI Bill

* + 1. Get more $$$ - The free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA)
    2. UWM Active Military Duty Policy
       1. Who is Eligible?
          1. Students called to Active Duty under Federal Title 10 or Title 32 State missions authorized by the Governor i.e., COVID missions , disaster relief, etc.
          2. Missions can be for any length of time up to 1+ years
       2. Student Options:
          1. Full Refunds of Tuition & Fees
          2. Grade Options > Withdrawal, Incompletes, Final Grade based on work completed
       3. QUESTIONS? Please contact either the MAVRC or MEBO or for more information: https://uwm.edu/onestop/students-called-to-active-duty/
    3. Executive Order 13607: Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions Serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses and Other Family Members
       - 1. In 2012, UWM signed an agreement to comply with the [Executive Order 13607](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2012/04/27/executive-order-establishing-principles-excellence-educational-instituti): “Establishing Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions Serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses and Other Family Members.
         2. An institution must take additional steps to accommodate short absences (for less than 30 days) due to service obligations, provided that satisfactory academic progress is being made by the service members and reservists prior to suspending their studies.
         3. Below is a list of typical short absences due to service obligations. Please note that the list is not all-inclusive.
         4. **Extra-long weekend drill commitments**, which are normally Saturday /Sundays but can include other days as well.
         5. **Mandatory attendance at Service Schools** for a student’s military job (assuming absence for attendance does not impact overall semester work or grade).
         6. **Attendance for initial military training (boot camp)** normally only if absence overlaps the start of a term or end of a semester.
         7. You can also see the [Questions & Answers from the Department of Education](https://ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/attachments/GEN1210POE13607QA.pdf) regarding this Executive Order. If you have additional questions, please contact James Schmidt ([jds99@uwm.edu](mailto:jds99@uwm.edu)), 414-229-6392), Financial Aid, Student Employment and Military Education Benefits Specialist.
    4. VetSuccess on Campus
       1. **What is VSOC?**
       2. The VSOC program provides a VA Veteran Readiness & Employment Counselor (VREC) to each VSOC school. These VRECs are called VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) Counselors. A VA Vet Center Outreach Coordinator is also provided, and co-located on many campuses, to provide peer-to-peer counseling and referral services. **UWM is the only university in the state with this program.**
       3. **What types of services are available?**
       4. Guidance and support with your VA education benefits – Chapter 31
       5. Exploring options when you face academic difficulties
       6. Career exploration and assistance
       7. Coordinating with school faculty/staff to provide Veteran Readiness & Employment specific services referrals for readjustment counseling for eligible Veterans and their families
       8. Federal Resume, Job Seeking, & Interview Preparation assistance
       9. Information and referral for other VA benefits (i.e. Disability Compensation, Life Insurance, Home Loan Guaranty, and Vocational Rehabilitation)
       10. **VetSuccess on Campus Coordinator:** **Patrick Grube, MS**
           1. Certified Rehabilitation Counselor **(USN)**
           2. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
           3. Office: UW Milwaukee Student Union Room 319
           4. **Email: Patrick.Grube@va.gov**
           5. Phone: (414) 902-1089
    5. Student Veterans of America UW-Milwaukee
       1. **Mission**
          1. Our social organization strives to support the transition and educational success of members, volunteer within the community and reach out to those in need, advocate for student veteran concerns and build awareness of veteran specific issues and provide a network of individuals that share a common past, a desire for success, and a willingness to support each other to reach our goals.
       2. **Officers**
          1. President: Autumn C. Carroll - Army Veteran
          2. Vice President: Kevin Grisales – USMC Veteran
          3. Secretary: Lucas Patron - Army National Guard
          4. Treasurer: Manuel Garmendez – Navy Veteran
          5. Advisor: Groovy - Navy Veteran

1. **Office of Undergraduate Admissions Updates**

*Mariana Sanabria*

1. Who We Are:
   1. OUA is comprised of various units:
      1. Communication & Marketing
      2. Data & Reporting
      3. Recruitment
      4. Operations
      5. Welcome Programs (Visit & New Student Programs)
   2. Admissions Advisors are in Recruitment
      1. View Admissions Advisors here: <https://uwm.edu/undergrad-admission/advisors/>
2. Questions from Prospective Students
   1. A prospective student (one who is interested in UWM but not yet applied or enrolled) has questions about things outside of my area of expertise and should connect with Admissions. What should I do?
      1. Emails can be sent (forwarded or cc’ed) to [undergraduateadmissions@uwm.edu](mailto:undergraduateadmissions@uwm.edu)
      2. Calls can be forwarded to our Call Center: (414) 229-2222
      3. Urgent issues can be sent to Mariana Sanabria, Assistant Director of Recruitment at [sanabrim@uwm.edu](mailto:sanabrim@uwm.edu) or (414) 229-3854
3. Where Prospective Students Can Go On-Campus
   1. OUA has consolidated our Front Desk to the Welcome Center located at 2100 E Kenwood Blvd
   2. The Welcome Center is staffed by 2 Counselors of the Day from the Recruitment team and also has computer stations for students who need to access accounts
4. What is available online for self-service
   1. Schedule an appointment with an Admissions Advisor
   2. Schedule Campus Tours, Information Sessions, and register for Events (uwm.edu/visituwm)
   3. View Admitted Student steps(uwm.edu/admitted)
   4. Fill out forms (https://uwm.edu/undergrad-admission/forms/)
5. Contact:
   1. Office of Undergraduate Admissions
   2. [undergraduateadmissions@uwm.edu](mailto:undergraduateadmissions@uwm.edu)
   3. (414) 229-2222
6. **HHMI Discussion - Enabling equal opportunities for students in STEM fields**

*Prasenjit (PG) Guptasarma, Anique Ruiz, Kelly Kohlmetz*

1. Want to hear from advising community on how they help students pick their major
2. What are we missing on campus? – campus climate, racism issues
3. Group discussion regarding this
4. Please fill out HHMI Institutional Self-Study Survey Link: https://milwaukee.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_5nbz2BsoaQKUGdE
5. Please contact the HHMI Self-Study Team if you wish to dialogue with us at [hhmi-drivingchange@uwm.edu](mailto:hhmi-drivingchange@uwm.edu)
   1. Would love to have a 1:1 with campus community members
6. **EAB Moonshot Data-Centered Interventions/Coordinated Care Workgroup** *- Advising Reps Needed*
   1. Looking for advising interventions
   2. Develop training and process documentation for navigate
   3. Nominate (including self-nominations) can be sent to Brian Hinshaw (bhinshaw@uwm.edu)
7. **Campus Community Announcements** 
   1. Leadership Programs
      1. Nominations open for leadership programs for UG and Grad
      2. Nominate your Student for Spring Leadership Programs
      3. https://uwm.edu/studentinvolvement/leadership/
      4. Student Involvement Event Calendar
      5. <https://uwm.edu/studentinvolvement/events/>
   2. ACN still looking for a PR coordinator
   3. RO – discontinued the enrollment hold that goes with the checklist process
      1. Students will get enrollment time tomorrow (11/10)

Connect to the meeting using Teams:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZGQ2ODAxMzEtNmI0ZS00MmViLTgxNzAtZDM0NGNhMjA4OGYz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%220bca7ac3-fcb6-4efd-89eb-6de97603cf21%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22327b05a9-50f7-44d4-9745-5b7f1f28a548%22%7d>

Due to the number of attendees, please use the chat feature if you have any questions.

**Next ACN Meeting:  December 14th, 2021   8:30-9:50 am, Teams**

**Co-Chairs:**

**Katie Nack,** [**knack@uwm.edu**](mailto:knack@uwm.edu)**, Co-Chair**

**Amanda Soika,** [**alsoika@uwm.edu**](mailto:alsoika@uwm.edu)**, Co-Chair**

**Kelsi Faust,** [**meyer378@uwm.edu**](mailto:meyer378@uwm.edu)**, Secretary/Treasurer**

**TBD, Public Relations Coordinator** *(If you would like to apply for this position, please email knack@uwm.edu)*