The Special Committee on Military Affairs met yesterday morning.

Members of the Office of Military Affairs: Mr. Bill Kawczynski, Ms. Ashley Adamovage and Ms. Siobhan Norris each briefed the Committee members on the One Year Anniversary of the Office of Military Affairs.

The presentation began with Mr. Kawczynski providing a recap from last April’s BOT meeting to where we are today. As with the first presentation in April of 2016, the areas of focus continue to be centered around five domains: Support Services; Academic Programs; Marketing; Recruitment; and Research/Training with relationships being the driver.

Ms. Adamovage described various support services the office has been working on with respect to a new, one of a kind, created College Green Zone text that demonstrates the importance of the military-affiliated student, how institutions of higher education can generate revenue from DoD and VA education benefits, to offering training to faculty and staff concentrating on three phases: introduction and overview of military background and culture; common disabilities & trauma of active duty and veteran students and how it contributes to a student’s learning environment; and finally the institutions
efforts to ensure success of the student veteran from first contact all the way through admissions, graduation and beyond.

Ms. Adamovage also described her role as President of the Southeastern Council on Military Education, which provides support for the improvement of educational opportunities for veterans, uniformed service members and their families within North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Ms. Adamovage represents the organization on a national level and is able to highlight UNCW’s efforts to support its constituents on numerous occasions throughout the year.

Ms. Norris then described various strategic military partnerships that have been established over the past year. These include the following:

- NC Defense Business Association which brings top defense contracting businesses to campus and increased internship and employment opportunities to military students
- National Military Family Association, having signed a memorandum of understanding as an official educational partner. This poises UNCW to recruit thousands of military spouses to apply though numerous scholarship opportunities marketed on a national level. NMFA’s scholarship page receives over 250,000 views each year.
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Hiring Our Heroes Foundation where UNCW serves on the National Military Spouse Employment Advisory Council as the only voice of an institution of higher learning for “best practices” on hiring military spouse students.
- Association of the United States Army, which deepens UNCW’s relationship with Fort Bragg while also offering scholarships and professional development opportunities to U.S. Army veterans on campus.
- Fort Bragg Leadership where the Chancellor is meeting with the Deputy Garrison Commander on April 27th
• General Dynamics to offer internship and employment opportunities to military students within the biometrics and cyber security industries; also, increasing opportunity for cybersecurity R&D for the university.
• PsychArmor which complements Green Zone training and offers accredited online programs with 24/7 access to all faculty, staff, and students.

To expand on the most significant partnership Ms. Norris and Rebecca Christiansen established, the President of Hiring Our Heroes specifically requested that UNCW lead the research efforts for the 2017 Military Spouse Summit in Washington, D.C. in June where Dr. Adam Jones from the SWAIN Center will be the featured presenter to White House Leadership including over 300 highly influential attendees, such as Laura Bush, Dr. Jill Biden, Mrs. Pence, and General Dunsford, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, as well as Command Sergeant Major Daily.

In collaboration with other departments on campus, the Office of Military Affairs is working on new marketing efforts in the Onslow County/Marine Corps Base area. Additionally, research and training opportunities continue to grow, as we are developing partnerships with TRX, Ft. Bragg special operations units for concussion protocol research, training for first responders in New Hanover County and a special leadership and ethics course for instructors at the School of Infantry at Camp Geiger.

For the coming year, the Office of Military Affairs will seek to increase scholarships for military affiliated students, increase research & training, collaborate with more military organizations locally and statewide, expand
our efforts to include the North Carolina National Guard, Seymour Johnson
Air Force Base and the US Coast Guard as well as working to increase
UNCW’s rankings to top 10 nationally in every capacity.

Unless members of the Board have questions, this concludes my report.