



for the RECORD

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: Deb Benton

I am truly honored to serve as President of OACRAO. In a recent interview, I was asked how it felt to be the incoming president of OACRAO. I had to think for a little bit, I reviewed the past presidents and those who had served from OHIO University – 1930 Frank Dilley, 1956 Bob Mahn, 1979 John O’Neal, 1991 Larry Terrell. I am truly honored! I am the fifth Registrar from Ohio University to serve as president of this great organization.

1991 – The year it all started! The year I graduated from OHIO University with my baccalaureate degree and also my first OACRAO conference! It was in Cleveland. What I didn’t know at that time was this was the beginning of a great relationship. I had no idea that I would develop friendships with such great colleagues! OACRAO is something I look forward to every year. I think I have missed only one, maybe two, conferences since 1991. I learn something new every single year!

OACRAO is an awesome organization! There is not one person in the organization who is not willing to share information or knowledge to help someone else, unless of course it is the “secret sauce” in admissions! There are many great people in OACRAO who volunteer their time to make OACRAO what it is today.

I strongly encourage you to get involved! If you have not already done so, please sign up for a committee. If you are hesitant, a good one to try out is the Local Arrangements Committee. Steven Mentz and Cheryl Gloege, LAC Co-Chairs for 2015 in Maumee Bay, would love to have you on their team!

I’ve been asked by several what I plan to do as President. That is not an easy question to answer. This is not my organization; it is OUR organization. I can see some things that I would like to tackle, but what I really want to do is what YOU want me to do. I really hope you will take the time to send me an email, pick up the phone and call me (740-593-4260), private message me on Facebook, but don’t tweet at me as I haven’t figured that one out yet!



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WANTED: Who has a beautiful campus or just an eye for photography? Share your campus beauty shots with us! Submit photos to any co-editor for future newsletters.

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT (Continued from pg. 1)

Let me know what OACRAO can do to help you succeed in your role. I really, sincerely, do want ideas from you. Past-President Jeannine Shambaugh did a fabulous job and I want to build upon what she has already started.

A few things I envision the Board will be working on this year:

- The OACRAO website
- Documenting the roles in the organization to help with transitions and succession planning
- Ensuring OSI (OACRAO Summer Institute) is sustainable

OACRAO is as great as the people who volunteer to make it work! Please let me know your ideas and get involved!

I look forward to serving as your President! OACRAO 2015 is at Maumee Bay, please mark your calendars now for October 7-9, 2015!

MY FIRST OACRAO: TINA FALKNER, AACRAO REPRESENTATIVE

Greetings from Minneapolis. In the few short weeks I've been back home since attending the OACRAO meeting, summer has had its last hurrah, fall is barely hanging on, and winter is quickly approaching. I even had to find mittens this morning, but enough griping about the Minnesota weather. It made me long for the beauty and beautiful weather of Salt Fork.

First and foremost, thank you for inviting me to attend the 2014 OACRAO meeting. I had a wonderful time, learned a lot, laughed even more and made some new OACRAO friends. Thank you for making me feel welcome and a part of the group.

Coming from a regional association as opposed to a state one, I was intrigued by the fact that you all can talk about state-level issues and share tactics to address them. Since my home association, UMACRAO, includes MN, IA, ND, SD, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and northwestern Ontario we aren't able to delve into state-specific issues and concerns. I also really enjoyed the idea of the OACRAO book club, finding/making time to read especially work-related books is a challenge and having a dedicated time to discuss a book might be just the inspiration many of us need to get reading. It also doesn't hurt that there could theoretically be an entire year for completing the book! I'm going to suggest this to UMACRAO.

Like you, we also conduct a fundraiser; ours is a raffle, though. I can't believe how competitive (in a good way) your silent auction is. Clearly the competition is working since you are able to raise so much money for student scholarships.

I had the good fortune to attend several excellent sessions that helped me think differently about my own work and that of my office. The sessions ranged from change management to efficiently sharing documentation and from class scheduling to data integrity. Thank you to all who presented. Readily sharing knowledge is a hallmark of our profession and something of which we should be proud.

I wish you success in your meeting next year. Continue to support and challenge each other, post pictures of your colleagues being silly with the 'Dueling Pianos,' respond to the AACRAO 60-second surveys, get involved in AACRAO and OACRAO, and take care.



Congratulations to the 2014 Linus J. Ryland Award Winners!



Don Foster – Otterbein University



Marian Brainerd – Wright State University

Good Times at the Salt Fork Lodge!



By: Mike Carrell, Assistant Provost, Veteran Services, The Ohio State University and Brad Myers

Recently the State and Federal Governments passed some significant legislation concerning Veterans and Higher Education. Two of these have major applicability to us here in Ohio:

The Ohio Legislature passed House Bill 488 that the Governor signed into law this Summer. The law concerns efforts that we all must take to better serve Veterans on our campuses. Specifically, it requires the following by Dec 31, 2014:

(A) Designate at least one person employed by the institution to serve as the contact person for veterans and service member affairs. Such a person shall assist and advise veterans and service members on issues related to them, and this person cannot be the primary VA certifying official.

(B) Adopt a policy, signed by the Board of Trustees, regarding the support and assistance the institution will provide to veterans and service members.

(C) Allow for the establishment of a student-led group on campus for student service members and veterans and encourage other service member- and veteran-friendly organizations.

(D) Integrate existing career services to create and encourage meaningful collaborative relationships between student service members and veterans and alumni of the institution, that links student service members and veterans with prospective employers, and that provides student service members and veterans with social opportunities; and, if the institution has career services programs, encourage the responsible office to seek and promote partnership opportunities for internships and employment of student service members and veterans with state, local, national, and international employers.

(E) Survey student service members and veterans to identify their needs and challenges and make the survey available to faculty and staff at the state institution of higher education. Periodically conduct follow-up surveys, at a frequency determined by the board, to gauge the institution's progress toward meeting identified needs and challenges.

(F) Establish an appeals procedure for students who are veterans or service members for resolving disputes regarding the awarding of college credit for military experience.

(G) Each state institution of higher education shall provide a student who is either a veteran or a service member with priority for course registration.

(H) No state institution of higher education shall charge a student who is a veteran or a service member any fee for the evaluation of, transcription of, or application for college credit for military experience.

Some reference notes for OACRAO members:

- (A) The goal is to ensure that there are both administrative and advising support for our veteran and service member students by requiring that more than one person be engaged. So, if the certification requirement is handled by your office, you'll want to make sure there is other support for the students as well.
- (F) Since all of the USO institutions are already required to have an appeals process in place regarding the evaluation of transfer credit, this expectation is building on that process. So, at your institution, what training and other updates might need to happen in order to be confident that your current appeals process can also accommodate military experience credit?
- (G) While each of the USO institutions must provide priority registration for veteran and service member students, there are some important specifics to consider:

Do you have a good structure in place to identify your veteran and military service students so that you can provide the registration priority? The toolkit (referenced in the next paragraph) provides a sample template for identifying the students, and additional information about tracking and managing information about the students. If you have some priority structure in place for students, you need to determine "where" within that structure your institution wants to place veteran and military students. The legislation doesn't go into that level of detail. Some examples are included in the toolkit. If you don't have any priority registration at your institution, it would be a good idea for you to tap into some of the resources available from the [toolkit](#).



SCENE ON CAMPUS: Wright State University, Air Force ROTC building, Dayton, OH

The OBOR held a one-day conference on Oct 21st to begin this process and has also created a helpful “Valuing Ohio Veterans” online toolkit with reference information, samples, and POCs to assist:

https://www.ohiohighered.org/valuing_ohio_veterans/toolkit

It also requires the following by July 1, 2015:

- Ensure that appropriate equivalent credit is awarded for military training, experience, and coursework that meet the standards developed by the chancellor pursuant to this section.

NOTE – The law also requires that The Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents (OBOR) shall provide guidance to state institutions of higher education in their compliance with this section, including the recommendation of standardized policies on support and assistance to veterans and service members.

**** To assist this process further, in the Spring of 2015 the OBOR, in conjunction with OACRAO, will host 5 regional training sessions across the state concerning the awarding credit for military training, education, and experience.****

On the Federal side, Congress passed the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, which was signed into law in August to help with the VA healthcare issues. Part of this law, however, requires that starting July 1, 2015, all public universities and colleges in the U.S. offer in-state tuition to anyone using the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits within 3 years of the military member’s separation. Ohio, through the ["GI Promise" legislation](#), offers a similar provision for Veterans, and their family members, attending Ohio Public colleges and universities. We’ve asked the OBOR to look at our state’s requirements and see if they need any adjustment based on this new federal law. Regardless, you should be working with your Veterans/Military office and VA certifier to work out the details and impact of this new law for your campus.

OACRAO wants to thank the veteran members of our organization and those working with our veterans on campus!

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS: HIGHER ED NEWS OF NOTE

By: Jack Miner

The government relations committee periodically shares news from around the nation that is impactful to our field. We encourage you to review the following stories.

Why the UNC Scandal should matter to us

There have been high profile athletic scandals before, but the scandal at UNC lands at the doorstep of Registrar offices when it challenges the validity of course approval processes, class scheduling, grades and ultimately whether to revoke degrees. ([link](#))

Colleges begin denying admission to students from Ebola impacted countries

Applicants at Navarro College in Texas have reported receiving letters denying their admission because they are international students from Nigeria, a country impacted by Ebola. ([link](#))

Online Education Editorial

Forbes offers a great editorial on the logistics of online education including an assessment of which models are sustainable and practical. ([link](#))

A cup of coffee on the way to college

Starbucks made headlines a few months ago with the release of a new business model that offered “free” college tuition to employees. As the program has started, they have released initial data on enrollment and implementation. ([link](#))

Does the wording of your admissions application discriminate?

Colleges in New York state are dropping arrest and conviction questions and/or narrowing the scope of the question to avoid discrimination and bias. ([link](#))