

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

November 7, 2012

Good morning! I am glad to see you all here. Welcome to our third and final forum for the fall semester!

As always, I hope these forums provide you with important and timely information about our university.

As you can see from this title slide, today I will make some comments about our student veterans – the issues they face and the exciting and growing programs we have on campus for our veterans.

But before I begin on this, let's turn our attention to the handout. There are a few things I wish to comment on.

As you know, fundraising is critical for our university to thrive. I spend a lot of time with our donors encouraging their support of Iowa. Lynette and the Foundation staff are great partners. In FY12, the UI Foundation transferred \$97 million to the university for various purposes. In comparison, the State of Iowa's support was \$209 million last year. This is an incredibly important resource for us and it is the reason we are entering into a comprehensive campaign.

Recently, the UI Foundation Board of Directors approved a comprehensive campaign goal of \$1.7 Billion. This number is still confidential as we plan to share it publicly at the campaign kickoff event on May 3, 2013.

This campaign goal is among the top three most aggressive campaign goals for public universities. Only UC Berkeley and Texas have larger campaign goals when adjusted for alumni or student populations.

A key part of our campaign goal is student success. We have a campaign goal of nearly \$260 million for student success and student aid initiatives. I am pleased to report that \$154 million of that goal has already been achieved.

To provide an extra incentive for our donors to consider creating scholarship funds, I have established the Golden Pledge. This is a challenge grant for our donors to encourage the creation of scholarship endowments for Iowa undergraduate students. For every new \$100,000 scholarship commitment, I will match the payout from those endowments through 2017. This will double the amount of scholarship support for students for the next five years.

Now I would like to provide you with some information on the programs we have at UI for a growing and important part of our student population – our student military veterans.

It is hard to think of our nation being at war, but the reality is that we have been "at war" since September 11, 2001.

Being in Iraq and Afghanistan has meant the largest number of war-time veterans since WWII.

This also means that the Iowa National Guard has participated in the largest deployment since WWII. And because of the two main deployments – Iraq and Afghanistan – our student veterans have had unprecedented multiple deployments.

And this means that we have to deal with visible and invisible wounds of war as our student veterans come to our campus. I will talk more about this in a bit, but first, let's look at some numbers.

As you can see on this slide, we have 564 vets enrolled this fall, and we are targeting 700 by the Fall of 2013!

A large number of our student veterans are women, and we expect this to grow as well.

We have students as mentioned before who have had multiple deployments, and you can see here that 40% of our veterans are disabled from service. A sobering figure....to say the least. It brings the wars home to us in a visible and challenging way for all of us.

Finally, we have some veterans who are not receiving benefits. This is something we continually look at and see how we can improve this as we move forward to ever-increasing numbers of student veterans.

So what do our student veterans face that our other students do not?

As you can see listed on this slide, there are a number of things that can be listed.

First...our student veterans tend to be older than the general university population. So just having an age differential alone can cause a bit of isolation.

Remember that these veterans are used to life in the military – a very structured environment whereby they work together intensely in teams. They forge bonds with their teammates that will last a lifetime, and now they have lost their teammates and the highly structured environment when they come here.

To say these veterans have had different world experiences than our typical 18-19 year-olds is one of the biggest understatements I could make. What they have experienced and seen cannot be understood so easily. We must remember that.

Couple these experiences with many of them also having dependents and perhaps insufficient funds and the physical and emotional scars that many have....well, you can see how this can lead to many issues of integration and lack of understanding on our part of what they have been through and what they are all about.

So here we see some of the academic issues these student veterans face. But we also see the strengths they bring to academics.

A major challenge we hear about a lot is that these students, because of many of things I have already mentioned, may feel out of touch and distracted in class.

These students also have a propensity to “stop out”. Deployment is one, of course, but because of the many other issues – the emotional scars – they leave.

So how do we work with our student veterans on campus? What can we do to better their integration on campus and, importantly, their academic success?

We have many people in place to help our student veterans...and they are all outstanding.

Listed here are a number of programs and things we are working on to improve the lives of our student veterans.

From our disabled veterans services to our student forgiveness/restart policies, we are moving on many different areas.

I key one I will mention later is the new course we have called “Life after War: Post-Deployment Issues.” So stay tuned...this is an exciting new course.

Our guest speaker today is Professor Jon Garfinkel from the Tippie College of Business.

Professor Garfinkel is Professor of Finance and Faculty Director, MBA Finance Career Academy, and Waugh Business Faculty Research Fellow.

Jon has had numerous teaching awards, including the Collegiate Teaching Award in 2011, and the Executive MBA Best Teacher Award, both in 2011 and 2012.

So he knows about teaching!

His presentation will continue on with my comments on online course delivery and where this is headed.

Please join me in welcoming Professor Jon Garfinkel!