

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jeff Nowak, Presiding Officer

FROM: Steve Buttes, Chair
Educational Policy Committee

DATE: 11/21/2025

SUBJ: Reports from the Programs Subcommittee

The Educational Policy Committee (EPC), the parent committee of the Programs subcommittee, received reports on the Continuing Studies program and the Center for Veteran and Military Student Success. These were submitted to the Programs subcommittee in compliance with Senate Bylaws III.5.4.2

“While the responsibility for administering the military training and continuing education program reside outside Senate, the Subcommittee shall annually review both programs and report its findings and recommendations to the Faculty through the Educational Policy Committee each fall.”

EPC discussed the reports and voted to forward the reports with the following acknowledgement of and appreciation for the ample work completed for two initiatives discussed in the included reports:

1. **PFW Alumni Discount for Graduate Programs (Continuing Studies).** PFW is working to grow pathways for students to pursue graduate degrees on campus, and the tuition discount for alumni is a beneficial tool that enhances programs across campus.
2. **Purple Star Ranking (Center for Veteran and Military Student Success).** This initiative, led by Nicole Welsh, was a success for our campus because of the intense collaboration between multiple offices on campus, including the Office of Academic Affairs, the Office of the Registrar, Student Information Systems and many others.

In Favor

Terri Swim
Tara Lewis
Abby Blackmon
Mieko Yamada
Sherrie Steiner
Steve Buttes
Andres Montenegro
Jay Daniel
Joel Givens
Amal Khalifa

Against

Absent

Reference Number:

MEMORANDUM

TO Fort Wayne Senate

FROM: Steven J. Cody, Chair
Programs Subcommittee

DATE: 11/13/2025

SUBJ: SR25-

Section III A 5.4 describes the Programs Subcommittee’s responsibilities in respect to the military training and continuing education programs. Line 5.4.2 reads:

“While the responsibility for administering the military training and continuing education program reside outside Senate, the Subcommittee shall annually review both programs and report its findings and recommendations to the Faculty through the Educational Policy Committee each fall.”

On October 27, 2025, the Programs Subcommittee received reports from the Center for Veteran and Military Student Success and the Division of Continuing Studies. Those reports are included below.

On November 11, 2025, members of the Programs Subcommittee who work on issues pertaining to continuing studies and military student services met to review both reports. The Subcommittee found the submissions to be informative and voted unanimously to forward the reports to the Senate without comment or recommendation.

| Approved | Opposed | Abstention | Absent | Non-Voting |
|----------------|---------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Kristin Barker | | | Chadi Braish | Kent Johnson |
| Caleb Britton | | | Nicole Welsh | Kim O’Connor |
| Jeff Casazza | | | | |
| Steven J. Cody | | | | |
| Damian Fleming | | | | |

Report on the Division of Continuing Studies for 2024-2025

Submitted by Chadi Braish

Continuing Studies saw great growth in demand for Online and Hybrid courses with over 850 students electing to take only online and hybrid courses in the Fall and Spring semesters. Over 4000 students in each semester had at least one online or hybrid course. We continue to support all online instructors with resources and newsletters to ensure connectedness with campus, no matter where they are located. Members of the Online team are also embedded into the Digital Accessibility taskforce to help implement the rules going into effect Spring 2026. This will ensure that online LTLs have access to the same level of resources that full-time faculty do.

Summer saw a dip in headcount enrollment, despite a more comprehensive marketing approach with emails, text messages, advisors promoting classes and even financial aid information provided. Summer I was down 2.4% and Summer II was down 7.5%. Despite the headcount dip, Department Chairs and Deans made excellent allies in ensuring only required courses were being offered and helped with profitability. Our net margin on Summer ended slightly up.

Graduate admissions continue to be impacted by federal decisions on visa attainment for international students. This year, we saw the most severe dip in the number of applicants in recent history – mostly attributed to the US Visa process and changing tastes for studying in the US. Domestic applications were also impacted by a cooling economy, dwindling tuition benefits at many employers. More applications are being started in our platform, but fewer are submitting the applications and earning admission.

Marketing for graduate programs was amped up to help overcome some of the dip in international admissions expected (and realized). We completed web campaigns that targeted popular NE Indiana events, peer and competitor university events, and major employers that have positions that would need a graduate degree. We had over 2 million impressions and a 156,000 reached.

We also expanded the alumni discount for graduate programs to all master's degrees offered at PFW. The number of students taking advantage of the discount skyrocketed from 4 in Spring 2025 to 20 in Fall 2025. This program will continue to be promoted to graduating seniors and alumni to encourage a return to PFW.

We partnered with the School of Education on a virtual event INnovatED that brought the Indiana Teacher of the Year to an audience of NE Indiana Educators. This was an opportunity for educators to earn training credits and an opportunity for the School of Education to promote their graduate programs directly. We look to partner with them for this event again in Summer 2026.

Report for Military Student Services Program

Submitted by Nicole Welsh

Recent activities and updates from the office of Military Student Service include:

- Office name has been updated to "Center for Veteran and Military Student Success" (VMSS)
- We have moved from Kettler Hall to Walb Student Union, room 120
- This move has given us a lounge, and we have already seen an increase in veteran appearance and use in Fall 2025
- We are part of the Student Success Initiatives (SSI) department now, led by Giang Petroviak
- At the end of Spring 2025 we met with PWL to start to update our Green Zone Training, the updated training will first be offered in Fall 2025
- The creation of the Military-Affiliated Student Success Committee (MASSC), almost a year ago, has brought the campus community together to support our military-affiliated students through multiple avenues on our campus
- With the updated lounge, the campus chapter of Student Veterans of America (SVA) has seen an increase in interest and attendance due to location and ability to hold meetings in a more welcoming environment
- Military Appreciation Day was a success with the flyover and attendance of at least 600-700 people
- Serving Those Who Serve Brunch took place on Nov. 6
- The office has plans to connect with the counseling center to do a Spring 2026 event for veteran suicide awareness
- The office will be supporting SVA of a Spring 2026 "Veteran's Resource Faire" that will be in connection with the Career Development Center
- VMSS has led PFW to be designed as one of six schools to get the Top Tier award for the Indiana Colligate Purple Star Ranking
- VMSS has led PFW to get the Gold Star ranking with the Military Friendly School Survey; the new survey, for next year, is out and has been completed