Title: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OFFICE OF VETERAN LIFE

Sponsored by: Brandon Ray
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Resolution Number: 07.14-15

WHEREAS University policy is to promote diversity on campus; and
WHEREAS at the start of the 2014-2015 school year, there were over 400 veterans, 71 active duty service members, 36 National Guard, 52 reservists, and 1,000 military dependents that were students on the Seattle campus\(^1\); and
WHEREAS veteran (including active duty military, reservist, and National Guard) students, staff, and faculty are an important part of campus diversity; and
WHEREAS the United States Veterans Administration developed the Post-9/11 GI Bill, that likely will continue to draw veterans and their dependents to the University of Washington for the foreseeable future; and
WHEREAS the University of Washington Office of External Affairs recently conducted a study on veterans’ services, in which the Office concluded that the inability to easily connect people, resources and information on veterans’ issues limits the potential support the UW has to offer them\(^2\); and
WHEREAS the University of Washington Veterans Center is designed to provide students with information about VA educational benefits, certify GI Bill benefits, and answer questions about financial aid\(^3\); and
WHEREAS no centralized organization exists on the University of Washington campus to provide non-financial resources to meet the veteran community’s needs; and
WHEREAS other highly regarded universities in the United States, such as Arizona State, Ohio State, Michigan State, Texas A&M, University of California – Los Angeles, and University of Maryland, all have campus veteran resource centers; and
WHEREAS the Office of External Affairs study recommends that a new position be created for a Veterans and Military Affairs Coordinator, who would be tasked with coordination, outreach, and community building\(^4\); and
WHEREAS members of the registered student organization, Husky United Military Veterans, have submitted unit application documentation requesting funding for a veteran

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\(^1\) University of Washington Office of Registrar.
\(^3\) https://depts.washington.edu/osfaweb/veterans/
resource center, Office of Veteran Life, that will be modeled after the Q Center and will meet the recommendation from the Office of External Affairs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON:

THAT the GPSS supports the formation of the Office of Veteran Life; and

THAT the GPSS encourages the UW administration to fully fund the Office of Veteran Life; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to Vice President for Student Life Denzil Suite, Associate Vice President for Student Life Lincoln Johnson, Director of Veterans Center Tim Wold, Vice President for Minority Affairs & Vice Provost for Diversity Sheila Edwards Lange, Services and Activities Fee Committee Chair Mac Zellem, and ASUW President Christina Xiao.

Presented to GPSS for approval on May 20th, 2015
Approved on May 20th, 2015