MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Veterans Initiative

November 2012

Purpose of Work Group:

• Ensure that the MUS continues to excel as a veteran friendly system by providing the services, financial aid, and instruction needed for today's veterans to access and complete higher education

Approach:

- Determine best practices to ensure we as a system are veteran friendly and provide the necessary services to veterans (conducted conference calls and research)
- Determine gaps in services or other areas that could be improved (surveys of what services are currently provided)
- Determine areas where a system or legislative initiative could assist in improving services, by filling gaps in services or improving consistency for veterans throughout the system

Recommendations:

- A coordinated system approach to all veterans policies and issues which includes a holistic support system for veterans that addresses veteran specific needs in the areas of access, engagement, academics, financial aid and financial literacy
- A consistent campus level approach to veterans issues and veterans policies which provides comparable levels of service at all system campuses based on the application of best practices (see attached)
- Develop a need-based aid program that supplements federal funding for veterans and fills gaps in the federal funding