Admissions & Academic Policy Committee

Proposal – Super Priority Registration for Veterans
(and possibly family members receiving VA benefits at NKU)

Proposed Change: This proposal would give Veterans and family members receiving VA benefits at NKU access to Super Priority Registration.

Submitted: February 1, 2012
Submitted by: Maria Reverman, Veterans Services Coordinator

Rationale: Our Veterans population on campus has grown over 50% during the past four years. 201 veterans and dependents were certified in spring 2008, and over 360 veterans and dependents in spring 2012. Students under CH 33 would particularly benefit, but also all other veterans and dependents. Students using the Post-9/11 GI Bill (CH 33) make up over 200 of our 360 veterans/dependents. The certification process has also drastically changed since 2008. We now have to report tuition and fees for students under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Early certification is critical so that NKU can get the tuition money which comes directly from the VA and also so students can receive their book stipend on time.

NKU communicates with our veterans and family members each semester to remind them how important it is to register as early as possible. We get several new students each semester who cannot enroll until after the last day of priority registration. Many of the funds of those students do not arrive until after the semester has already begun (VA’s current processing time is about 4-6 weeks).

If veterans and family members are permitted to get super priority registration it would make it easier to certify everyone in a timely manner before the beginning of the new term, but more importantly, tuition money could arrive at NKU in a timely manner, veterans could get their books stipend on time to get books for the term and their monthly BAH.

Given the short timeframe that is given to Veterans by the VA to complete a degree (36 months), Veterans need to be able to choose classes that directly affect the progress of the degree. If Veterans are not able to receive super priority registration, they could potentially take classes that are irrelevant to the core classes.

If students are able to get registered for classes earlier, the certifications are able to be sent to the VA sooner. This will allow the student to receive his/her book stipend in time for the upcoming semester. Many times a student has to wait 2-3 weeks into the semester before they are able to receive books because of the processing time of the VA.
Reservists who have three-day drills (MWF), need the option to pick Tuesday and Thursday classes. Without priority registration, reservists could potentially be forced to pick a MWF class that is required and continually miss the Friday class because of a drill.

Priority Registration for incoming veterans would provide NKU a selling point which would make them stand out among other local universities.

**CURRENT POLICY:** NKU currently has no policy regarding priority/super priority registration for veterans.

**Other Kentucky University Veterans Priority Registration Policies:**

**Morehead** – [http://www2.moreheadstate.edu/registrar/index.aspx?id=3818](http://www2.moreheadstate.edu/registrar/index.aspx?id=3818)

Priority Registration Special Categories – Athletes, Honors Program participants, and currently classified Veterans.

**Eastern** – [http://va.eku.edu/](http://va.eku.edu/)

Veterans at EKU are given priority to register for classes starting on Day 2 of each registration period.

**Implementation Recommendation:** Fall 2012