#### **SCO STEM Discussion - Ryan**

### Introduction

Do you have any questions before we get started?

**STEM Scholarship Overview**

CINDY did a great job facilitating the experience when the system didn’t allow the SCO to take mouse / keyboard control. Interesting side note, this approach probably forces them to read more of the content than they normally would.

**Program Questions**

1. What questions come to mind as you read about the program?

* When they voted on and passed Colmery, the SCO team started getting calls daily.
* “What constitutes “about to exhaust your benefit?” Depending on the course of study, that would be vital for Veterans to know what constitutes “about to exhaust your benefit”.

1. What questions do you anticipate that Veterans will have?

* What does “almost exhausting your benefits”?
* Priority given to individuals with 100% and those who require the most credit hours?
* How do I apply for this? Is it the Veteran? Or the school applying on the Veteran’s behalf?

1. Do you have any questions about the eligibility requirements?

* People will be mad that it can’t be transferred to dependents.
* What does it mean “They’re taking applications”? It could be 30-45 days before you hear back.
* When, where, how do I apply? Who is applying for it (school or Veteran)?
* This is still so vague about what is going to happen – all schools of higher education are trying to figure this out.
* Last time VA updated their SC handbook was in March. Waiting to see what the latest revision is for guidance.

1. Are some of the undergraduate STEM degree programs at   
   \_\_\_\_\_\_School Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 128 credit hours or more?  
     
   At George Mason, no. I don’t think any are 128 or longer. This says that the program must have 128 semester hours required. If they’ve changed their major and already have that number of credits, they won’t be eligible for this. Probably will see a lot of applications that aren’t eligible because the programs themselves don’t meet the 128 requirement.   
     
   Probably only makes sense if they’re a double major. Biology is 120 credits so someone in that program wouldn’t be eligible. Bioengineering is 122 – 134 credits so they may be eligible. They could apply. Applied computer science, 120. Civil engineering, 120, so no.
2. Do you have any questions about the benefits Veterans will receive?
3. Do you have any thoughts on the way the information is presented?
4. Do you have any impression of the frequency with which students go on to obtain a teaching certificate after they graduate from a STEM program?

No.   
You have to look at if they’ve got a STEM degree and are getting a teaching certification, they’re going the teaching route. Not all teaching programs are going to be VA approved. Will need to confirm whether the teaching program is approved.  
  
SUGGESTS ADDING LINK TO WEEMS to show approved teaching programs.

**Review Draft STEM Application Form**

That answers that question… 180 days is the requirement.

Aha, there it is. It looks like the student is going to fill out most of the form then the SCO at each school will verify this. Sounds like VA wants SCO to submit this form. A problem with that, a student in Mechanical Engineering will fill it out and bring it to the SCO, the SCO will say “No. ME is only 120 hours.”

SCO is going to be choke-point [if] they’re gate keeping. If SCO doesn’t have enough info (from SC Handbook) they may not do it [or know what to do] because they’re not able to verify the process.

This really goes along with the Post 9/11, why are the other GI Bill programs listed?

Very straight-forward and simple. Not that tricky other than Q10.

Recommendation: Q10 – Put Gunnery Sergeant Fry Scholarship as a separate option.

**Opportunities for Improvement**

1. What question do you think Veterans would have as they complete the application process?

Q10 will be confusing for them since it’s just 9/11.

Part II Course of Study. A lot of people will answer that question honestly and will not be eligible.   
  
If it’s that easy on paper.

1. What questions on the form, if any, need more explanation or clarification?

**Overall Application Process**

1. What do you think about the overall process of applying for a STEM Scholarship?

Very easy and intuitive. Wouldn’t take very long to navigate through this.

1. What parts of the STEM Scholarship application form seem straightforward?
2. What challenges do you think Veterans will face as they completed the form?

Major issue: It’s just an application, not a sure thing. They’ll have to wait for a decision and not know. They’ll have to wait 180 days. A Veteran may be well into their last semester.

The application portion is easy to read and follow the directions.