

Division of Government and Public Affairs

Robert L. Gordon III  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense  
4000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-4000

December 12, 2011

Dear Mr. Gordon:

Thank you for your reply to our letter to Secretary Leon Panetta regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Military Tuition Assistance (TA) program. We appreciate your willingness to work with us to achieve the result we all want for our service members.

Since we are only a few weeks away from the January 1 deadline, I write to renew our request that you delay the effective date so that improvements may be made to its text. As you may know, Secretary Panetta has recently received a bipartisan letter from 52 senators, as well as letters from numerous military and veteran service organizations, making the same request. We stand ready to work with you to make adjustments to the MOU that both respect institutional academic prerogatives and, at the same time, provide better protections for service members against fraud and abuse.

Our member institutions take great pride in welcoming active duty service members and veterans to our campuses. We are heartened by the recognition of so many senators and military service organizations of the importance of allowing service members to choose the institution that best meets their needs. While we recognize that some quality institutions have already signed the MOU, there remain other quality institutions whose academic policies make it impossible for them to adhere to the stipulations present in the current document. Most campuses will recess for the holidays soon, and will not resume until after the start of the new year. Many of these institutions have yet to sign MOUs.

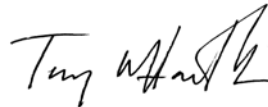
In light of these considerations and timing concerns, we hope you will delay the effective date and convene a meeting with institutional representatives, service member organizations, VA officials, your staff and others to develop an MOU that will better serve its intended purposes. In revisiting the MOU, we would support efforts that would result in greater transparency for service members. We believe it is critical to ensure

Page 2  
December 12, 2011

that service members have the information they need to make informed judgments about institutional quality as well as information about available campus support services.

Thank you for your continued consideration of our request. We greatly appreciate the work of your office on behalf of our service men and women.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Hartle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "T".

Terry W. Hartle  
Senior Vice President

TWH/dw