



Veterans Advisory Committee Minutes

December 14, 2017

3:00 – 4:00

Room I4-402

MEMBERS	Evan Adelson	LaWanda Foster	Chris Nowell
	Ivonne Alvarez	Ramiro Hernandez	Tonya Whitfield
	Angie Avila	Trung Huynh	
	Danene Brown	Eduardo Moncada	

AGENDA ITEM A: Call the meeting to order

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was called to order at 3:00pm • <u>Absent Members</u>: Evan Adelson, Ivonne Alvarez, Angie Avila, Claudia Estrada, Suzanne Khambata, Eduardo Moncada
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AGENDA ITEM B: Approval of meeting minutes

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee approval of the minutes from our last meeting in October 2017 is postponed until next meeting due to Angie's absence.
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AGENDA ITEM C: Old Business

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ailene and Ramiro acknowledged and gave recognition to all the individuals who supported the Veterans Celebration week activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LaWanda for the goodie bags, t-shirts, and pizza ○ Tonya for the BBQ ○ Suzanne Khambata for the Relaxation Tent ○ Associated Student Government for the flags • This year \$500 were raised to support the Veterans of Mesa Scholarship Fund. • The committee debriefed on Veterans Celebration Week events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Veteran Appreciation Wall was a success and a great idea that we will continue in future celebrations. Many thanks to the students who shared this idea with Ramiro and Ailene. ○ The San Diego Vet Center was present for only an hour. We will develop a better relationship to solicit support for future events. ○ In the future we will ask Personal Growth instructors and counseling faculty to encourage students to attend the Veterans Panel ○ Leroy shared the panel was recorded and available in Mesa College's YouTube channel - https://youtu.be/-u2w6ZGIXRg ○ We will work towards organizing efforts with ASG to coordinate future pizza delivery dates
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AGENDA ITEM D: New Business

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Military Ally workshop recently held at Mesa College for the peer navigators was very informative and had representatives from both SDSU and USD. This opportunity can create stronger partnerships with both institutions. • The USD's Veteran Services Coordinator announced today that Cary Wynne, a USMC Veteran student from Mesa College who transferred in the fall 2017 recently passed. • Mesa College received the notice of approval from the Institute of Higher Learning. The approval expires August 11, 2018. • Discussed the impact of certificate programs on VA benefits and certification of courses. In addition, discussed about plans to develop stackable certificates. • Spring events are in the planning process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Breakfast Pancake Social. Might incorporate an online-order form for those who want their pancakes delivered. ○ Veterans Graduation Ceremony. Dates are being finalized. ○ Might consider recruiting students to help with deliveries. • SVO future plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will ask City College's Cosmetology Program if they can provide haircuts to student veterans once a month. ○ The plan to be involved with Mission Valley Preserve ○ They are writing grants for the club and would like to help with the VRC. ○ The SVO is focusing efforts on supporting the community • SVO completed the opportunity drawing for the big screen TV and the CPU. • Microsoft was installed in all the VRC computers. • January VAC meeting is cancelled. We will resume in February.
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AGENDA ITEM E: Announcements

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ailene is seeking campus approval to apply for the California Community College Chancellor's Office Veterans Resource Center (VRC) Funding Certification and has submitted the Funding Opportunity Review Form. • SVO will be represented at the Student Veterans of America's National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. The organization applied for a grant that will fund their hotel accommodation. The conference is held January 4-6, 2017.
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AGENDA ITEM F: Roundtable and Adjournment

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramiro shared about Amazon Smile and using that option to purchase items from Amazon and support a charitable organization. He will look into this possibility and share with the committee. • Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.
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Next Meeting: February, 2017
*Meeting Formula: 2nd Thursdays, unless otherwise **noted**.*