



Veterans Advisory Council

Minutes

March 21, 2024

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT	Jordan Agricola, Ivonne Alvarez, Ailene Crakes, Jose Hueso, Jillian Ventrone, Armando Manzo, Alex Holowicki
MEMBERS ABSENT	Angie Avila
GUESTS PRESENT	Kyung Ae Jun, Research/Planning Analyst

AGENDA ITEM I: Welcome

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m.• Committee introduced themselves
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AGENDA ITEM II: Updates

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Veterans Recognition Ceremony 2024 is scheduled for May 1st from 5:00 to 7:30 PM at Mesa Commons room 211. During the meeting, logistics were discussed and are progressing smoothly. Currently, a flyer for the event is in progress. Neil has volunteered to sing the national anthem. Additionally, efforts are underway to confirm Mario Romero as the guest speaker, a former Mesa Alumni renowned for engineering and naming the Odyssey for DCs.• VSC events update<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The Veterans Café hosts monthly transfer counseling events on the first Wednesday from 10-11 AM at the VSC. These sessions offer pastries, coffee, and tea. We are currently making efforts to invite an EDD representative to address inquiries regarding the Veterans Readiness and Employment Program.b) Safe Talk Training is a mental health training session aimed at identifying suicide ideation. It provides resources both on and off campus to support individuals in need.c) VA financial Aid Workshop Geared towards offering students updated information on FAFSA.d) The University of San Diego Tour is scheduled for April 20th, specifically welcoming veteran students interested in the nursing MSN Program. Requirements for participation include prerequisites and a bachelor's degree with a good GPA. Additionally, Cal State, San Marcos, is actively seeking veteran students for their accelerated BSN program for a second bachelor's degree. They conduct intakes three times a year and currently reserve 5 out of 60 seats for veterans.
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	<p>Furthermore, we are currently exploring opportunities with Cal Baptist.</p> <p>e) Warrior Scholar Project is scheduled for April 15th from 10 AM to 1 PM. It offers an academic boot camp across three distinct fields: humanities, humanities combined with business and entrepreneurship, and business humanities and STEM. This event is held at universities nationwide.</p> <p>f) The Breakfast Fundraiser scheduled for April 17th is conducted to raise funding for the veteran emergency assistance grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSC décor – collaboration with a new vendor underway to select pictures, photos and large decals for placement on the walls and windows.
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AGENDA ITEM IV: Other Items

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chancellor's Office is initiating vision-aligned reporting and has asked us to utilize a new portal for this purpose, along with reporting the implementation status. • Our Strategic Enrollment Management Plan is currently evaluating its impact on the student experience, from the application process to their departure from Mesa College. • We're exploring the possibility of providing virtual mental health support after hours for our veteran students through telehealth services. • Additionally, we're considering offering a Military Affiliated English Composition Class as a cohort for our veteran students in Fall 2025.
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AGENDA ITEM V: Roundtable

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Region 8 conference took place at Saddleback this year. It serves as a forum for veteran representatives from different community colleges and universities to convene and discuss policies, expenditure funds, and the operations of veteran centers. • Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.
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Next Meeting: April 18, 2024

*2nd Thursdays, 1-2 pm, unless otherwise **noted**.*