



Veterans Advisory Council Minutes

November 16, 2023

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, Sandra Belew,
GUESTS PRESENT	Kyung Ae Jun

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: Guest: Kyung Ae Jun, Research/Planning Analyst

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kyung Ae Jun presents data on military veteran populations, focusing on service utilization and demographic trends.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Overview of military veteran student identification and a four-year analysis shows a steady increase, reaching 12% of the student body (3,521 students) last academic year; total with spouses and dependents is 4,369.○ Questions arise about data sources (CCC Apply and Campus Solutions), prompting exploration of discrepancies, such as students not seeking services or enrolling in recent classes.○ Enrollment data reveals 1,591 students receiving services, with demographic highlights including overrepresentation of African American, Filipino, and multi-ethnic students; males constitute 59% of military veteran students. Presentation concludes with suggestions for outreach to support the diverse military veteran student population.○ Military-affiliated students make up around 12%, with clarifications on reserves, National Guard dependents, and those not using benefits, leading to potential discrepancies.○ Challenges in processing paperwork for students seeking services from City and Miramar, highlighting a younger demographic in
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Veterans Advisory Council Minutes

	<p>line with San Diego County having the largest population of young veterans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Military veterans often pursue associate and bachelor's degrees, with data showing higher success rates (78.3%) and term GPAs (2.86) compared to non-veteran students. ○ Committee acknowledges the team's efforts, positive impact of dedicated counselors and various support services. ○ Proposal for further data exploration spanning the past three years, considering unique challenges during the pandemic. ○ Meeting concludes with discussions on program review, addressing service utilization gaps, and brainstorming strategies to reach students not accessing services, including potential misconceptions about financial aid eligibility.
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AGENDA ITEM III: Updates

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Military Affiliated Orientation – Jordan provided updates on a military-affiliated orientation during the meeting. The orientation saw initial success, with students showing interest, and word of mouth played a key role in attracting participants. ● Veterans Survey – Jose led a state-mandated veteran survey, addressing issues in serving veteran students like staffing, mental health services, and benefit utilization. The survey aims for increased funding and support for veteran services. Discussions included the significance of outreach, possible mandatory orientations for veterans, and updates on staffing in the Veteran Success Center. The primary goal is to enhance support services for military-affiliated students on campus. ● Veterans Week, November 6, 7, 8 - The committee reviewed their recent activities and events for Veteran's Week. They considered consolidating all future events in the veteran's success center due to low attendance. They also discussed establishing connections with universities and organizing a veterans' panel for Career Day. ● Veterans Recognition Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st. The committee noted reflections on lessons learned from the previous year. The decision to move the ceremony from the gym to the Mesa commons was discussed, with the expectation that it would provide a more intimate setting. Suggestions to explore options for discounted hotel rates for attendees and potential restaurant discounts.
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Veterans Advisory Council Minutes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Updates - Suggestions were made to improve the experience for ceremony attendees' family members. This involved considering a mini-tour of the college campus and keeping the Veterans Service Center open for visits. The committee stressed the significance of creating a meaningful and inspiring event for military-affiliated students and their families. • Wendy Smith and Donna Duchow of the English department are exploring a Military English Comp/Critical Thinking class for fall 2024, with the potential for a "soft landing" option for student veterans. This class, featuring mandatory military-themed content, is designed to provide familiarity and comfort, facilitating a smoother transition into academic life for student veterans.
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AGENDA ITEM IV: Other Items

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee acknowledged the need to maintain communication and collaboration as they work towards improving future events. • The meeting concluded with well-wishes for the upcoming holiday season, expressing gratitude to each committee member for their continued support.
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AGENDA ITEM V: Roundtable

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.
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Next Meeting: March 21, 2024

*Meeting Formula: 2nd Thursdays, twice a semester, unless otherwise **noted**.*