

Veterans Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 19, 2024

1:00 – 2:00 pm

MEMBERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ivonne Alvarez, Director Admissions Jordan Agricola, Student Services Tech Veterans and Records Alex Holowicki, Professor History Jose Hueso, SS Supervisor I Veterans and Records Jennifer Carmichael, Dean of Math & Science Armando Manzo, Admissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angie Avila, Administrative Assistant Cynthia Rico, Acting Dean of Student Development Raul Rodriguez, Counselor Tonya Whitfield, Professor of Culinary Arts/Culinary Management
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MEMBERS PRESENT	Ivonne, Jordan, Jose, Jennifer, Cynthia, Angie, Raul,
MEMBERS ABSENT	Alex, Armando
GUESTS PRESENT	

AGENDA ITEM I: Call the meeting to Order

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.
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AGENDA ITEM II: Approval of Meeting Minutes

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	There were no previous minutes to approve.
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AGENDA ITEM III: Updates

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<p>a) Welcome Cynthia Rico, Acting Dean of Student Development, and Raul Rodriguez, temporary counselor, were introduced. Raul will serve as the interim counselor until a new VA counselor is hired.</p> <p>b) BBQ Fundraiser The recent BBQ fundraiser was highly successful, raising \$3,500 for the Veterans Emergency Fund. These funds are managed through The Stand and are supported by The Foundation.</p>
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	<p>Moving forward, the BBQ will be held in the Fall, and the Pancake Social will be organized in the Spring to continue fundraising for veteran students.</p> <p>c) Warrior-Scholar Project We are partnering with the Warrior-Scholar Project to provide a one-day college success workshop focused on essential academic skills for elite institutions. The workshop is scheduled for Friday, September 27th, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the VSC K-103. Cynthia will arrange for a counselor to attend the workshop and offer feedback.</p> <p>d) VA Disability Claims Representative Jesse Panis, a VA representative, will visit the campus monthly to assist students with their disability claims. Students can schedule appointments through Jordan Agricola.</p> <p>e) MCRD SD Career/Education Fair 2024 The MCRD Fair took place at the Jerry Coleman Center on September 18th from 10 AM to 4 PM. San Diego Mesa College actively participated, focusing on recruiting veteran students</p> <p>f) College/University Representatives Visit Scheduled for October 17th, from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, in The VSC K-103, representatives from several prestigious universities, including Princeton, Yale, MIT, the University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins, Wesleyan, Amherst College, and Pomona College, will be on campus to provide information and recruit transfer students.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM IV: Other Items

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<p>g) Onsite Tutoring The committee discussed possibly organizing math tutoring sessions or "Math Jam" workshops at the Veterans Success Center. These sessions would provide additional academic support to help students navigate the upcoming changes to the math curriculum.</p> <p>h) Onsite Counselor The committee discussed the potential benefits of having a dedicated counselor present at the Veterans Success Center, Monday through Thursday, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, to offer support and build rapport with veteran students.</p> <p>i) Priority Learning Community/Credits There was a discussion regarding the Priority Learning Community credits and how they will be accepted by other colleges and universities, raising concerns about their transferability.</p>
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	<p>j) California AB 1111 This bill mandates adopting a standard course numbering system for all general education and transfer courses across California Community Colleges and State Universities. For example, Math 119 will be standardized as STAT C 1000 statewide.</p> <p>k) California AB 1705 AB 1705 eliminates specific prerequisite courses, such as Math 148, for courses like Math 150. This affects veteran students as courses that are not prerequisites may not be eligible for VA funding poses a challenge for veterans seeking benefits.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM V: Roundtable

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.
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Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025:

Sept 19, Nov 21, March 13, April 10

*Meeting Formula: 2nd Thursdays of the month, unless otherwise **noted**.*