



## Veterans Advisory Committee Minutes

December 8, 2016

3:00 – 4:00

Room 14-402

<b>MEMBERS</b>	Evan Adelson	Ailene Crakes	Trung Huynh
	Jordan Agricola	Donna Duchow	Leroy Johnson
	Ivonne Alvarez	Claudia Estrada	Suzanne Khambata
	Angie Avila	LaWanda Foster	James King
	Danene Brown	Gabriel Gonzalez	Janet Langrehr
	Andre Castro	Ramiro Hernandez	Tonya Whitfield

### AGENDA ITEM A: Call the meeting to order/Approval of Minutes

<b>COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION</b>	The meeting was called to order Absent: Evan Adelson, Danene Brown, Andre Castro, Donna Duchow
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### AGENDA ITEM B: Welcome and Introductions

<b>COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION</b>	<p>The committee welcomed the following attendees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Janet Langrehr - current president of the SVO</li><li>• James King - VRC tutor</li><li>• Donna Duchow</li></ul> <p>Absent: Evan Adelson, Danene Brown, Andre Castro, Donna Duchow</p>
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### AGENDA ITEM C: Approval of Minutes

<b>COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION</b>	The committee approved last meeting minutes
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### AGENDA ITEM D: New Business

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Veterans Day Celebration was a success. The workshops were informative and worthwhile. A good turn-out.</li><li>• The food that Culinary Arts provided was appreciated.</li><li>• The pull pork was a huge hit.</li><li>• The T-shirts provided by the Veterans &amp; Records Office were a great success</li><li>• The students really liked the \$10 gift cards. The only downside was that only students using their GI bill (benefits) were able to take advantage of the gift cards</li><li>• The committee thanked Lawanda and her office for her their support</li><li>• CSAAVE – Lawanda collaborates with other companies/departments to gather the information requested</li><li>• Ailene thanked Jordan for his wonderful leadership with our Veterans population and for his great accomplishments</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tuan is happy to be part of the committee</li> <li>Janet thanked Jordan for returning a 2<sup>nd</sup> time as a the SVO president</li> <li>Jordan is waiting to be accepted into the Posse Veterans Program at Wesleyan University. He thanked everyone in the committee for the support he received. He is happy the veteran population has grown so much throughout the years that he has been here.</li> <li>Freddy Dominguez (rep for Suzanne) is happy to be part of this meeting and thankful we help the veterans population</li> <li>Claudia started the professional clothing drive last year in conjunction with the VAC committee and it's been very successful</li> </ul> <p><u>Spring Events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Pancake Social is coming up on Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup> 8-11am, \$5 dollars a plate (3 pancakes and bacon). All funding goes to Veterans Emergency Fund. A room location will be reserved. The committee will revisit logistics in February 2017</li> <li>The Veterans graduation ceremony is Friday May 19<sup>th</sup> from 11-1pm room, MC211 A/B – the sash will be provided to students at this event</li> <li>The sash at the Mesa bookstore is \$32.95 each and @ graduationstolls.net it is \$26-29. Ramiro will research price further</li> </ul>
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#### AGENDA ITEM E: Announcements

<b>COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online Orientation is fully accessible now. It now picks up where the student left off. It has a specific area for veterans and it will be available in Spanish. The online orientation is a great thing for most veterans because many don't physically attend classes</li> <li>The requirements for Veterans to receive their benefits during intersession are different than a regular semester. Any classes taken during intersession have to be part of the major. In addition the pay for taking web classes is different than physical taking a class.</li> <li>VA Benefits policy change comes from the VA. The District decided all three campuses will not approve certificated programs</li> <li>Jordan applied for the POSSEEE Program. He will be presenting at The Student Veterans of America in Anaheim about the top nonprofit organizations</li> <li>The official grand opening date for "The Stand" is February 6. It is the food pantry and clothing drive put together, located on the second floor in the multi-purpose room across from the student success center.</li> <li>The stand will provide a bag of grocery items to the veterans right before the holidays</li> </ul>
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#### AGENDA ITEM F: Roundtable and Adjournment

<b>COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claudia thanked Lawanda for sending a good group of student workers to assist at "The stand".</li> <li>Gabriel is the ASG representative this semester. He looks forward to being part of the committee. The ASG sends 10 students every year to lobby in Washington DC. He is one of the students this year</li> <li>Tonya is thankful there is a Veterans Resource Center at Mesa. She as</li> </ul>
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	<p>amazed at how much it has grown in the past years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tonya will be attending the Veterans Summit Conference again this year (March 9-10<sup>th</sup> 2017).</li><li>• Leroy reminded the committee to refer students to the Transfer, Career &amp; Evaluations Office</li><li>• Lawanda thanked the committee for its support to streamline the process and to establish their position.</li><li>• Ramiro thanked the committee for the support and opportunity to counsel our veterans</li><li>• Ramiro continues to work with the scholarships</li><li>• Ramiro will send the link to the Veteran Profiles spread posted on our website by the communications department</li><li>• Ailene will continue discussion on how to reach out to the veterans that aren't receiving benefits. Thanked the committee for welcoming her</li><li>• Angie mentioned the Soldiers Who Salsa program will continue this upcoming Spring semester</li></ul>
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**Next Meeting: February 9, 2017**

*Meeting Formula: 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursdays, unless otherwise **noted**.*