



Veterans Advisory Committee Minutes

March 9, 2017

3:00 – 4:00

Room 14-402

MEMBERS	Evan Adelson	LaWanda Foster	Trung Huynh
	Ivonne Alvarez	Gabriel Gonzalez	Leroy Johnson
	Angie Avila	Adam Greening	Suzanne Khambata
	Danene Brown	Dylan Hardie	Janet Langrehr
	Ailene Crakes	LaWanda Foster	Tonya Whitfield
	Claudia Estrada	Ramiro Hernandez	

AGENDA ITEM A: Call the meeting to order

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The meeting was called to the order at 3:00pmAbsent: Evan Adelson, Ivonne Alvarez, Danene Brown, Andre Castro, Claudia Estrada, Gabriel Gonzales, Ramiro Hernandez, Jesse B. and Tonya Whitfield
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AGENDA ITEM B: Welcome and Introductions

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The committee introduced themselves and welcomed Alejandro Barajas the current point of contact for Soldiers who Salsa Program at Mesa
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AGENDA ITEM C: Approval of Minutes

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">February meeting minutes will be sent via email
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AGENDA ITEM D: Old Business

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Everything is set for the Pancake Social. The event will take place on Wednesday, March 22nd from 8-11am in front of the VRC. \$5 a plate (pancakes & bacon)Veterans Graduation Ceremony is May 19th from 11-1, room MC211 A/BThe graduation stoles are in process
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AGENDA ITEM E: New Business

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The committee watched a profound video of Sam Berns philosophy for a happy life. The video served as reminder that sometimes we need to hear what other people are going through in order to put things into perspectiveAccreditation is next week March 13-17th. Recommendation to look at the accreditation visit guide to familiarize yourself with what is going on during that week and share our Mesa storiesJumpstart was a success. Ailene thanked everyone who participatedThe Veterans at Mesa Scholarship Committee is reviewing the scholarship
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	<p>applications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soldiers who Salsa - Alejandro explained how salsa dancing impacted his career and life in a positive way. He took his first salsa class in Fall 2016 and is dancing professionally now. Salsa dancing helped him figure out his career path. He is currently the point of contact for the program and hopes the program continues to be available in the upcoming events • Posse Veterans Programs will be at Mesa on 4/13/17 from 10-1pm in the VRC. The program recruits veteran students and provides the opportunity to attend elite universities. Our former student Jordan Agricola is now attending Wesleyan University this semester.
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AGENDA ITEM F: Announcements

COMMENTS/ DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrators are looking at finding a permanent space for the VRC • Susan Khambata would like to bring The Welcome Home for Veterans Workshop designed to help staff and faculty with strategies on how to provide a smooth transitions to veterans once they leave their military job. The workshop is interactive and includes a panel discussion • The scholarship ceremony is April 28 at the Double Tree Hotel in Mission Valley. Tickets are \$35.00 each. Gift baskets will be donated by several departments. • Summer Class Schedule will be out April 17th. • SVO is looking into possibly representing Mesa College at the Military Base to provide early outreach to other veterans. The military's focus is on retention instead of promoting which later becomes a disservice to veterans when transitioning. • The following military factors were discussed; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The military doesn't promote education or promotions ○ Going to school while being an active military is challenging • The military doesn't provide career guidance when leaving the military
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Next Meeting: April 13, 2017

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