



Notes

March 24, 2009
Council for Veterans Program
Meeting Minutes

Present: Randy Anderson, James Bilelis, Vernon Bridges, Nani Escudero, Ronald Kendis, Richard Lewis, Susan Matranga, Melody Meldrum, Donna Morley, Rick Pfeifer, Calvin Rankin, Andrea Smith, Jeremy Villar

Item #	Topic Description	Comments
1.	WELCOME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council reviewed and approved the February 24th meeting minutes.
2.	SHERIFF OFFICE - DEPUTY RICHARD PFEIFER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Pfeiffer informed the council that sheriffs receive on the job training on how to interact with individuals who may have mental health issues, including veterans. Security officers on campus normally wear a white shirt while student cadets wear a blue uniform. Deputy Pfeiffer acknowledged that only one security officer is on duty after 10 pm. The increase in campus footage due to new buildings has created a need for additional staffing in the Sheriff's Office. The number of staffing in the Sheriff's office has remained the same as in 2001 level. The suicide hotline number is 800-253-TALK – anyone contemplating suicide should call this number to speak with a counselor. Statistics are not available on the number of campus incidents involving student veterans because the sheriffs normally do not identify veteran status in their report.
3.	VETERANS UPWARD BOUND - NANI ESCUDERO,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nani informed the council of the history and purpose of the Veterans Upward Bound. Veterans Upward Bound has referred clients to attend LACC. The Veterans Upward Bound empowers veterans to seek a college education. The Veterans Upward Bound program has arranged field trips to college campuses on behalf of veterans. The program is affiliated with the East LA Vet Center, which provides counseling, outreach and referral services to veterans. The center is open year round and programs last 6-8 weeks. The Veterans Upward Bound is open to current college students. The program offers scholarships for veterans to attend college.
4.	ON-GOING PROJECT UPDATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Veterans Club has elected new officers and has a scheduled meeting on March 25th. A new web page for the Veterans Success Institute has been added on the college website. A free symposium "The Road Home" is being sponsored by Pasadena City College on Friday, May 15th 2009. Educators, Administrators and Support Staff are encouraged to attend. Jeremy has requested to present at an upcoming Academic Senate meeting. The purpose is to raise awareness of veteran issues on campus and inform the faculty of the activities being planned by the council.

5.	UPCOMING PROJECTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In collaboration with Financial Aid, an awards lunch for Veterans is to be held in May. The awards are to be created by donation and made based upon criteria yet to be determined. A service to Veterans by Veterans would be a worthy acknowledgement. • The Veterans Club will be consulted about its willingness to sponsor speakers who can address available services and resources available to the Veterans community. • A need for a designated Veterans Counselor – Melody has indicated that the Counseling Department has been accommodating to student veterans; the ACE/Walmart grant includes funding for a .5 counselor. • A need for a Veterans Office – a Veterans Office has already been planned at the new Student Services building. • Revisit the idea of distributing signs at various offices on campus for designation as “veterans friendly”.
6.	WRAP-UP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting dates for Spring 2009 are 4/28, 5/26, 6/23