



**California Community Colleges Veterans Caucus
Veterans Caucus Business Meeting Notes
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
3:45pm**

Attendees via Zoom

Brenda Estrada
Greg Gillespie
Zeke Hernandez
Douglas Houston
Larry Kennedy
Edralin Maduli
Nancy Montgomery
Jesse Ortiz
Daren Otten
Paul Parnell
Grace Scharler
Richard Teagarden
Linda Wah
Bill Withrow
David Wood
Donna Ziel
Mary Ann Lutz
Patricia D'Orange Martin

Recorder

Gina Paduano

1. Welcome and Announcements

Discussion: 1.01 Welcome and Announcements

The meeting commenced at 3:45pm.

Larry Kennedy welcomed the group. The attendees introduced themselves. L. Kennedy announced that a person does not have to be a veteran to participate in the Veterans Caucus Meeting.

2. Review October 13, 2020 Caucus Meeting Minutes

Procedural: 2.01 Review October 13, 2020 Caucus Business Meeting Minutes

The notes were provided for review.

Larry Kennedy asked if there are any follow-ups since the previous meeting. Bill Withrow commented that whatever they can do to accelerate veterans going into nursing, and using their background to help this would be a win-win for them and society.

Nancy Montgomery shared she did pull the curriculum from the Board of Registered Nursing to see what is required for nursing and compared it to what the corpsman and medics are completing in their studies, and she noted a variance. She shared that she attempted to set an appointment with the Board of Registered Nursing, but could not get in contact with them. She will try to have something put on their agenda or show up in their public comments to try and get contact information.

Nancy Montgomery shared that the state Chancellor's Office allows a lot of information and photos where students are helping the community and it would be a good idea to get the medics and corpsman out there to drive-thru events in helping with the vaccines. She suggested that the Chancellor's bring this to the attention of Chancellor Oakley. Patricia D' Orange Martin commented that she would like to work with Nancy on this and noted that Mitch Seal would be a great resource,

Douglas Houston noted they do have credit for prior learning protocol that is implemented statewide where they can locally approve credit. He noted that getting 1 for 1 with the nursing courses is going to take a while. Patricia D' Orange Martin commented it would hard to get, and the nursing board will not accept it.

3. Updates

Discussion: 3.01 Update from the State Academic Senate President

Nancy Montgomery to ask the State Academic Senate President, Dolores Davison if she can bring provide some updates to the caucus.

Discussion: 3.02 Fiscal/Budget Report

The budget report was shared and the group reviewed it. Larry Kennedy noted that there is a fee paid to CCLC, and some processing fees for credit card charges. He noted that due to the current circumstance with COVID, there has been no contracts for hotels or convention halls. Larry Kennedy mentioned that there is some extra money for small projects, and possibly plaques for other individuals. Greg Gillespie stated that the money could be used to support caucus members on future trips to Sacramento or conferences. There was discussion about candidates for receiving a plaque. Larry Kennedy commented that he would develop a nomination form.

Brenda Estrada asked if there has been any consideration for helping to fund veterans who get accepted into community college to PhD programs with either UCLA or Cal State Fullerton. Larry Kennedy replied that anything could be support and suggested Brenda work with Nancy Montgomery in formulating the idea. Nancy Montgomery commented that she can bring back those ideas to the Board meeting to discuss it in more detail.

Patricia D' Orange Martin commented that she likes the idea of using funds to go to Sacramento noting that the members of this caucus advocating for veterans there would be influential. Nancy Montgomery agreed and stated that the members of this caucus can set up a meeting with the Senate Veterans Committee and Assembly Veterans Committee and present to them their issues and concerns.

Bill Withrow asked if there were any outcomes from the Veterans Affairs meeting. Larry Kennedy replied that has not received feedback. Bill Withrow asked for any updates as result of the ACCT conference where there was a focus on getting accreditation for military training across the board. Larry Kennedy replied that this is being address especially with the nursing; he said there is a movement to try and standardize with each college what the units will be. Nancy commented that the Academic Senate is still working it and Palomar College presented a format that they will use to accept military credit. She mentioned great presentation from Palomar College regarding this and recommended inviting that presenter to the next Board meeting to discuss this. Nancy Montgomery to find her information and send her an invitation.

Discussion: 3.03 CCLC Legislative Update

There were no updates. It was noted that the VSOC on colleges are undergoing changes. There was a discussion that the with the changes, they are taking away their files, and the VSOC counselors are becoming intake clerks and reducing services to disabled veterans. Nancy Montgomery suggested waiting for the new administration in January to address this issue.

4. New Business

Discussion: 4.01 Officer Elections

Larry Kennedy announced he is not running for office this time around and noted that there is a replacement for him as Trustee, Stanley Mantooth. He also would like to credit Greg Gillespie, and Gina Paduano who works in his office. Larry Kennedy moved to nominate Bill Withrow as the co-chair for the Trustee side along with Doug Houston who is the CEO co-chair. Zeke Hernandez seconded. There were virtual hands raised in the zoom meeting in favor of this nomination. There were no oppositions. Bill Withrow was nominated. Larry Kennedy will stay on the Board and be the alternate co-chair on the community side, and Greg Gillespie will be the alternate co-chair on the CEO side.

Discussion: 4.02 Senator Roth Award

Nancy Montgomery requested that the award be sent to her so that she can present it to Senator Roth. She also requested that the someone from the committee be present on Zoom to celebrate with him.

Discussion: 4.03 CCLC Veterans Caucus webpage and research materials

Larry Kennedy asked what the process is for uploading pictures, materials, and other things on the CCLC page. Rina Kasim replied that the caucus members can send it to her and they will create another page, which will be linked to the main caucus page. She noted that a PDF format is acceptable and the turnaround time is typically 3 days.

5. Adjournment

Procedural: 5.01 Adjournment

Larry Kennedy thanked everyone for joining the meeting. He noted that next year may be all Zoom conferences. Nancy Montgomery pointed out that she would like to make sure that veterans are included in the May revisions. Douglas Houston suggested having a conversation with Senator Roth, and possibly having a separate meeting with the officers. Nancy Montgomery pointed out a person on the budget committee that she recommends meeting with. Larry Kennedy noted that the office of Jacqui Irwin is close to the VCCCD District Office and she could be a good resource. Larry Kennedy recommended an executive meeting for Zoom and identified mid-January.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.