



Thursday, May 6, 2021
Veterans Caucus Business Meeting

4:30pm-5:20pm

This meeting is being held via Zoom.

<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/99846284688?pwd=YXlXd2oyTHRjNmVzSTBxZ0E0OWFTdz09>

Meeting ID: 922 5740 4212 Passcode: CCCVC

1. Welcome and Announcements

1.01 Welcome and Announcements

2. Review January 26, 2021 Caucus Meeting Minutes

2.01 Review January 26, 2021 Caucus Business Meeting Minutes

3. Updates

3.01 Attendee Report on Operations at their Colleges

3.02 Credit for Prior Education and Experience

3.03 Advocating and Lobbying to the State Assembly and Senate

3.04 Lobbying the State and Federal Veterans Administration

4. New Business

4.01 Upcoming Events

4.02 AB 1040 Ethnic Studies

5. Adjournment

5.01 Adjournment



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 06, 2021 - Veterans Caucus Business Meeting
Category	1. Welcome and Announcements
Subject	1.01 Welcome and Announcements
Access	Public
Type	Discussion

Public Content

The members of the California Community Colleges Veterans Caucus to extend welcomes and share announcements.



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 06, 2021 - Veterans Caucus Business Meeting
Category	2. Review January 26, 2021 Caucus Meeting Minutes
Subject	2.01 Review January 26, 2021 Caucus Business Meeting Minutes
Access	Public
Type	Minutes
Minutes	View Minutes for Jan 26, 2021 - Veterans Caucus Business Meeting

Public Content

The members of the California Community Colleges Veterans Caucus to review the January 26, 2021 Caucus Business meeting minutes.

[2021 01.26 Veterans Caucus Meeting Notes Draft.pdf \(114 KB\)](#)



California Community Colleges Veterans Caucus
Veterans Caucus Business Meeting
Tuesday, January 26, 2021
3:00 pm – 3:50 pm

Notes - Draft

Present

Debbie Anthony; Cheryl Aschenbach; Theresa Austin; Daniel Avegalio; Barbara Calhoun; Tammara Chavez; Vernetta Crain; Stephanie Crosby; Dolores Davison; Cairo Eduardo; Samantha Erickson; Ryan Fleming; Eric Garcia; Juan Garcia; Greg Gillespie; Bea Gonzalez; Rosalyn Green; Ezekiel Hall; Nichelle Henderson; Vicki Hernandez; Zeke Hernandez; Douglas Houston; Crystal Jackson; Rina Kasim; Larry Kennedy; James Konopitski; Matthew Lopez-Phillips; Edralin Maduli; David Martin; Andrew Martinez; Maria Martinez; Ryan McElhinney; Marcia Milchiker; Nancy Montgomery; Alex Norring; Mike Osorio; Daren Otten; LaKyshia Perez; Frank Reyes; Richard Roth; Jose Serena; Miatta Snetter; Todd Steffan; Vickeisha Sterling; Brian Sylva; Mana Tadayon; Alex Vega; Montely Wilson-Bey; Bill Withrow; Donna Ziel

Recorder

Gina Paduano

1. Welcome and Announcements

Discussion: 1.01 Welcome and Announcements

Bill Withrow welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced himself as the co-chair of the committee alongside Doug Houston. Doug Houston announced that the meeting will be recorded because the awarding presentation may be used for social media purposes. Bill Withrow provided some background information from the previous meeting where he was elected as co-chair and Larry Kennedy was selected as alternate co-chair.

2. Review November 18, 2020 Caucus Meeting Minutes

Procedural, Minutes: 2.01 Review November 18, 2020 Caucus Business Meeting Minutes

Larry Kennedy motioned to approve the minutes. Edralin Maduli seconded. The minutes were approved.

3. Updates

Discussion: 3.01 Update from the State Academic Senate President

Dolores Davison, the ASCC President thanked the group for welcoming her. She shared that they participated in the Veterans Symposium in December and they have an upcoming breakout session with the Chancellor's Office staff at the part-time institute next month around serving veteran students through online education. She commented that they are putting together their Plenary Session, and it will include something around veterans. She shared they are traveling to Washington, D.C. with the Chancellor's Office to advocate on behalf of a variety of different groups mostly for the California Community Colleges, and in the past, working alongside members of the Veterans Caucus like Greg Gillespie and Larry Kennedy. She noted the significant movement in the credit for prior learning world which would greatly help veteran students and continuing a pilot around cross-walking. Bill Withrow thanks Dolores for reporting the updates to the group.

Discussion: 3.02 Attendee Report on Operations at their Colleges

Bill Withrow revisited an issue with access to counselors and provided an example that athletes have academic coaches that help them excel in their academic goals. Larry Kennedy commented that in 1979 he was a teacher at a community college and they had full-time veterans counselors. Patricia D'Orange Martin commented that an additional counselor isn't necessary if they can have designated counselors dedicated to veterans, just like there are dedicated counselors for athletes. Bill Withrow replied that it was a good point and ask the group if they had any more comments. No other comments were provided.

Discussion: 3.03 CCLC Legislative Update

Ryan McElhinney presented this agenda item. He introduced himself as the Policy and Advocacy Manager for the League. He shared that there haven't been any bills introduced this year specifically around veterans, but that there were still two and a half more weeks where legislators can introduce bills. He shared that the state legislature is very cautious about introducing new funding mandates or new initiatives in the era of COVID-19. He asked if anyone had any questions for him. Nancy Montgomery pointed out that one of the main issues she would like to highlight is making sure students have nourishment and housing. She pointed out that the original SB 85 Bill did not have guidance on the accountability for funds or a definite procedural process of the method of how the allocation would be, and she would like more definition regarding that. Ryan McElhinney stated those are excellent questions and that the Chancellor's office could address that. He stated that the first stop for him would be to note what kind of tracking metrics are they using and can they be shared. Nancy Montgomery replied that there are no metrics, accountability or reports.

Discussion: 3.04 Annual Plaque Award Recipient: Senator Roth

Douglas Houston introduced Senator Roth to the meeting attendees. He provided some highlights regarding Senator Roth. He shared that Senator Roth has over 32 years of active and reserve service for the Air Force. He was elected to the California Senate in 2021 and chairs the Senate Standing Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development, as well as serves on the Joint Legislative Committee on Rules and Senate Policy

Committees on Health Insurance and Military and Veteran Affairs. Nancy Montgomery presented the award on behalf of the Veterans Caucus. Nancy Montgomery recognized Senator Roth for all the work he's done for our veterans. She shared that Senator Roth has helped over 90,000 veterans in the California Community Colleges, and through funding he has allowed colleges to have functioning Veterans Resource Centers. Senator Roth thanked Nancy for the kind words. He shared that working on behalf of the Veterans Caucus, and all the veterans in the California Education system has been one of his most rewarding experiences. He highlighted the importance of veterans having access to appropriate services within our educational system. He pointed out that his colleagues also fought for resources for veterans as well. He shared that he looks forward to continue supporting veterans and thanks the caucus for what they do to continue to uplift veterans and amplify their voices. Bill Withrow thanked Senator Roth and asked the group if they had questions or comments. Larry Kennedy pointed out that there is not dedicated funding for counselors for veterans. Senator Roth replied that he's happy to take that on and highlighted the importance of having those mental health counseling services in order to ensure the success of veterans once they enter our system. Senator Roth pointed out that due to the pandemic, there has been a structural deficit in the state of California, and once they figure that out and have a stabilized budget, they can re-engage on mental health counseling and educational services counseling. Nancy Montgomery noted that it would be nice to have a stable, more sustainable accountability and allocation of funds, and that it's something to work on. Senator Roth shared that during one of the Education Budget Subcommittee hearings he asked the question about the allocation of the Veterans Resource Center funds, and the answer he received was not totally satisfactory or specific, and when he tried to follow up, the response was that they have a staffing issue. He shared that he will try to reengage, but noted that he is not on the Education Budget Subcommittee anymore, and that he will ask his staff to approach the CCCC and the Chancellor to follow up on that question. Senator Roth suggested that the group members can individually approach their college presidents or representative, and raise the issue. He will raise the issue through the community college district that's in the senate district he represents. Patricia D'Orange Martin pointed out that it's very difficult to get an accurate veterans count and that is one of the issues with accountability. She suggested that one way to unify the system is to use the DD 214 which gives a validation of their service. Senator Roth pointed out that some people don't believe they are a veteran because they did not serve in a combat zone. He also shared that if a person served in the National Guard, or reserve, and did not serve an extended active duty, and never retired, they would not get a DD 214. He suggested that maybe the members of this group can form a committee group to figure out the various iteration of this to help not leave anyone out of the equation. He also suggested helping veterans self-identify to that they can receive those services. Douglas Houston thanked Senator Roth for everything he's done for veterans and joining the meeting today. Senator Roth replied he's honored and privileged and looks forward to working with the Veterans Caucus in the future.

4. New Business

Discussion: 4.01 Upcoming Events

There were no upcoming events shared.

Discussion: 4.02 California State Chancellor Office VRC Funding allocation process/Legislation

Patti D'Orange-Martin asked if a committee will be formed to look at how veteran status is validated across the board. Bill Withrow replied that the Executive Committee will be taking a look at that and develop a set of goals.

Discussion: 4.03 Credit for Prior Education and Experience

Bill Withrow explained that this topic is about helping veterans get credit for prior education and experience. He noted this is a complicated subject and they need to develop a strategy to address this topic. He pointed out an example of this which involves the inability to use the VA to get credit for online courses, and the current use of a waiver. Nancy Montgomery pointed out that they have attended several recent military credit webinars and at Palomar, they have an excellent review of how they're accepting prior credit and utilizing it. She suggested inviting their representative to one of the meetings to share information. Nancy Montgomery to touch basis with the representative and send information to the group.

Discussion: 4.04 Advocating and Lobbying to the State Assembly and Senate

Bill Withrow noted that one of the topics that has been brought up in discussion is the need for a strategy to provide a focused meaningful discussion around advocating and lobbying.

Discussion: 4.05 Lobbying the State and Federal Veterans Administration

This agenda item was addressed in agenda item 4.04 and a more focused discussion on this is planned for a future meeting.

5. Adjournment

Procedural: 5.01 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 06, 2021 - Veterans Caucus Business Meeting
Category	3. Updates
Subject	3.01 Attendee Report on Operations at their Colleges
Access	Public
Type	Discussion

Public Content

The members of the Veterans Caucus and attendees to have a discussion regarding operations at their colleges.



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 06, 2021 - Veterans Caucus Business Meeting
Category	3. Updates
Subject	3.02 Credit for Prior Education and Experience
Access	Public
Type	Discussion

Public Content

The members of the Veterans Caucus to have a discussion regarding credit for prior education and experience for veterans while on active duty.



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 06, 2021 - Veterans Caucus Business Meeting
Category	3. Updates
Subject	3.03 Advocating and Lobbying to the State Assembly and Senate
Access	Public
Type	Discussion

Public Content

The members of the Veterans Caucus to have a discussion regarding: advocating and lobbying to the State Assembly and Senate.



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 06, 2021 - Veterans Caucus Business Meeting
Category	3. Updates
Subject	3.04 Lobbying the State and Federal Veterans Administration
Access	Public
Type	Discussion

Public Content

The members of the Veterans Caucus to have a discussion regarding lobbying the state and federal Veterans Administration.



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 06, 2021 - Veterans Caucus Business Meeting
Category	4. New Business
Subject	4.01 Upcoming Events
Access	Public
Type	Discussion

Public Content

The members of the California Community Colleges Veterans Caucus to have a discussion regarding upcoming events.



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 06, 2021 - Veterans Caucus Business Meeting
Category	4. New Business
Subject	4.02 AB 1040 Ethnic Studies
Access	Public
Type	Action, Discussion

Public Content

The members of Veterans Caucus will have a discussion regarding AB 1040 Ethnic Studies.



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	May 06, 2021 - Veterans Caucus Business Meeting
Category	5. Adjournment
Subject	5.01 Adjournment
Access	Public
Type	Procedural

Public Content