



**California Community Colleges Veterans Caucus
Veterans Caucus Business Meeting Minutes
The Community College League of California's 2023 Annual Convention (Hybrid)
Friday, November 17, 2023
Time: 3.30 pm
Indian Wells Renaissance Esmeralda Resort**

Attendees: Total No: 54 (13 participants in person, 41 participants via zoom)

1 Welcome and Announcements:

Dr. Jackson called the meeting to order at 3.33 PM. She welcomed everyone to the meeting, and sought their indulgence to rearrange the agenda so as to enable her present her report on items 3 and 4, as there was an overlap with another caucus meeting she had to attend as well. There were no objections.

2 Veterans Caucus By laws:

Dr. Jackson thanked Larry Kennedy for locating the bylaws. She noted that, since there was no quorum to vote on any amendments, the version included in the meeting packet would be for review only. Given that the current bylaws provide that officers/CEO co-chairs must be active members of the trustees, she recommended that the bylaws be amended to allow retirees to serve as officers, as retirees will have the availability to serve in the caucus. She encouraged everyone to think about it as a possibility, noting that there will be another meeting at the legislative conference in January to vote on that.

3 Legislative Update:

Dr. Jackson gave some background on the joint resolutions by the community college trustees and administrator affinity caucuses, denouncing the SCOTUS decision on college admissions, both State and National. She also gave an update on a similar resolution passed unanimously by the CEOs and CCC Trustees. Larry Kennedy expressed that the resolution by the CEOs and CCC Trustees was significant as it carries more weight as an elevation to what the caucuses have done. Dr. Jackson commended the caucuses for having the impetus to bring it to the forefront.

4 Presentation by Professor Walters on AB1705:

Todd Stefan introduced Professor Julie Walters. Dr. Walters gave a summary of the changes that will be happening with AB1705, its requirements, and the impact it will have on students. Dr Walters highlighted some concerns including length of class time, equity issues and loss of STEM majors. She expressed the need to find ways and resources to assist and advocate for veteran students as they go through the changes.

At the request of Larry Kennedy, Dr. Walters agreed to prepare a white paper that the caucus can use as a draft of their position, which will be in the form of an ask from the caucus to the state. Following the presentation, there were questions, comments and suggestions from the attendees.

Dr. Rick MacLennan apprised the caucus of the meeting he had with the sponsor of the bill, about the unintended consequences of AB1705, of which he created a one pager. He added that the sponsor would be interested in reading the proposed white paper, because she wants to help. He stated that he would share the one pager at the January meeting, although the issues highlighted are generic and not specific to veterans.

5 Veteran Mental Health and Transition Support:

Nancy Montgomery and Bill Withrow led discussions on Veteran Mental Health and Transition Support. Nancy Montgomery referred to the IVC - State of Student Veterans Report dated August 2022 and the IVC - Mental Health Report dated June 2021 as she noted that there is still a lacking of any type of access of mental health specific for veterans in the colleges, and she went on to suggest that a subcommittee be put together to address that issue with the state Chancellor office. She also referred to some information about a program that Bill sent to her, which she noted had data and research on those issues.

Bill Withrow concurred on the idea of going to the State Chancellor's office as well as the VA with a presentation supported by the research and data.

6 Other Business:

- The minutes of the last meeting (May 2023) was approved and codified.
- There was no report on the ACCT Community College Legislative Summit, however Rick MacLennan informed the caucus that the summit will hold on February 5 through 8th, 2024. He stated that he is working with four other trustees to develop subject areas to address, as well as the organizations/bodies they would like to reach.

- Bill Withrow noted that as a topic for the next meeting, discussions should be had on the need for structure as to communication with the veterans. He noted that CalVet said they would do it, but he has no update on that.

7. Update by Representative from the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) on VRC funding model and possible changes, CCCCCO Veterans programs survey, upcoming Veterans Symposium, Regional Veterans Meetings, and other items:

Heather McClenahan, the Veteran Specialist from the Chancellor's office gave a brief update on the Veterans Mental Health Demonstration Project's fiscal year 2023-24, veteran funding allocations and formula, the veterans services advisory committees, the VRC minimum standards, the veteran specific materials for the "I can go to college" campaign, and the VRC survey 2023. She highlighted the components of the demonstration projects that were presented to the Board of Governors which include the Student Veteran Mental health and Credit for Prior Learning. She also gave an update on the upcoming Veterans Symposium.

Following questions and comments, the meeting adjourned at 4.47 PM.
