



Minutes – Veterans and Active Duty Educational Steering Committee (VADESC)

September 18, 2012
Kellogg 3010

12:00-12:50

-- Agenda Topics--

Present: Regina, Mari, Laurie, Sara, Doug, John S., Vickie, Yesenia, Thomas, Casey, Jeff, John B., Chuck, Eloise, Alan

- Welcome

Eloise opened and welcomed group and facilitated self-introductions.

- Strategic Planning Update - Eloise Stiglitz

Eloise emphasized that this was a draft document, open to suggestions and feedback. She asked members to submit any suggested revisions to Alan for compilation, and routing back to sub-committee. Eloise also stressed that lack of resources is a limiting factor in what can be implemented, but that this was a document designed to set priorities, even if not currently fundable at this time. Funding might emerge through outside sources.

Comments:

Casey Roberts

- There is no mission or vision to guide the plan, without which it lacks vital elements.
- Thomas stated that the draft committee worked on mission and vision statements but left them out of the draft pending broader input from the full committee, after which they will be included.

Casey Roberts

- Question on whether a five year plan might align better with funding cycles.
- Eloise countered that there was too much uncertainty that far out to make a meaningful plan for five years.

Casey Roberts

- This plan needs the cooperation of other departments which can be enhanced by embedding the Veteran Strategic Plan as a component within a larger institutional strategic plan to lend weight.
- Eloise stated that the preamble could make clear that this plan was a part of the University Strategic Plan to meet this need.

Casey Roberts

- A way must be developed to measure the goals to keep them relevant. While assessment of some items might need to remain qualitative in nature, most items can be measured quantitatively or converted to quantitative measures. Clear numbers and data are vital for gaining buy in from decision makers. The committee agreed and the document will be reworked to reflect clear and measurable assessment strategies.

- Eloise commented that the committee should use measurability as the threshold for item inclusion in the plan

- Jeff offered to work with drafting committee to help develop measurable goal statements. Research on current best practices would also inform the plan and provide benchmarking opportunities. Others commented that in some cases CSUSM may be the best practice in the system and we would need to look nationally.

Casey Roberts

- Year one of most strategic plans is the campaign year for planning, and this might push the year one goals down to year two to accommodate. Eloise noted that we now had a four year plan with that change.

Eloise closed item discussion by noting that rather than proceed with an item by item review of the document at this time, the document would be reworked to include metrics for assessment, to add items linking each objective directly to the University Strategic Plan, and to include relevant best practices as applicable. The draft committee will reconvene with Thomas as chair.

- Late Admit Process for Vets

- John Segoria

John raised the issue of whether the university was doing a disservice to veterans by allowing them to register so late in the process given the limitations on course availability at that time. This increases the possibility that they might register for courses not refundable under their GI benefits. Thomas remarked that Vets are told up front that late registration meant classes might be limited. The discussion suggested that moving late registration back to 30 days prior to classes as a cut off might be preferable to avoid this issue. Also, encouraging late admit veterans to consider spring admission would be a better option for the student, however the student might be needing GI benefits for basic needs and waiting might not be an option. Casey remarked that military discharges tended to be cyclical and peak in summer, leading to late summer decisions to attend college, but that the late admit process might be counterproductive for these students and set them up for increased risk of failure to complete.

It was decided to form a committee to explore this issue: Yesenia Flores (student), Casey Roberts, John Segoria, Laurie Schmelzer, Thomas Swanger and Carol McAllister, with John to chair. This group will report back to the full committee with preliminary feedback next meeting, and full report by end of semester.

- Veteran's Scholarship

- Thomas Swanger

Thomas described a newly established scholarship to assist vet students with book needs in the amount of \$10,000 for fall and spring. The Armed Forces Interest Group (AFIG), a part of the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation, will submit an application for an additional \$10,000 for the spring. So far aid is limited to text

books, but they hope to expand with additional funds to include parking passes, child care needs, or similar items.

- Vet's Upward Bound Grant Update

- Thomas Swanger

The grant application failed to gain enough points to qualify. Institutions funded in prior years had significant point bonus that effectively precluded new institutions with less than perfect scores from being awarded. The next opportunity will be in five years, when hopefully lessons learned this cycle can be applied.

- Enrollment numbers update

- Thomas Swanger

Pushed to next meeting.

Next meeting:

Enrollment update, Strategic Plan document, Initial feedback from late admission subgroup,