**Campus Climate Committee**

**February 8, 2012**

**Present:** Mary Ann Takemoto, Deborah Hamm, Melissa Uribe, Matt Vico, Marshall Thomas, Betsy Decyk.

**Next meeting**: March 14, 2:3:30 AS 125

[M-moved; S-seconded; P-passed]

Approval of the Minutes from November 9, 2011. MSP

**Announcements:**

 Program Planning: possible in March – representatives from the LGBTIQ Task Force

 A representative from Campus Police

 Possible in April - Ombuds report

 There are new members of the Campus Climate Committee. Betsy will send committee charge with

 the next minutes.

 There are several changes to the roster. Deborah will check with Academic Senate Office about replacements; She will make up a new email roster and sent it out.

**Marshall Thomas from Veteran’s Affairs Services spoke to the Committee. Some of the highlights were as follows:**

 There are about 450 veterans on campus

 There is a positive campus climate and support for veterans from the President down

 Veteran’s Affairs Services is located in Foundation 265.

 Veteran’s Affairs Services provides:

1. Veterans with certification of enrollment to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs so that the veterans can receive their educational benefits
2. Outreach – to community colleges, military bases, educational fairs, etc
3. Advocacy – both on campus and off campus at the local, state and national levels

 There is a small veteran’s working group to review campus policies to foster veteran success

 There is a student organization called VetNet

 There is the VET NET Ally Training – modeled on the LGBT Safe Zone, the seminar lasts 4 hours and is

 offered on campus to faculty and staff. There will also be an offering to student leaders this spring.

 The program has been very successful on campus and has also been “exported” to

 U.C. Irvine and Santa Monica Community College

 ASI now has a Veteran’s ambassador

 Issues

1. Veterans are on a time-line – fulltime students get educational benefits for 36 academic months. Almost all run out of their educational benefits. What happens when they run out of money?
2. Veterans are nontraditional students – often transfer students, in a different place in their lives in terms of experience, marriage and family
3. We can expect more veterans as the various services downsize

Many veterans were originally from California or have been stationed here and want to stay.

What can people on campus do to help?

 Participate in the VET NET Ally training. It means a lot for the veterans and others to see the stickers that a person is a VET NET Ally.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Decyk

These minutes have not yet been approved.