

**Office of the President**

**TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY:<sup>1</sup>**

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

*For Meeting of March 19, 2015*

**SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE – AN UPDATE ON STUDENT VETERAN SERVICES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

In 2014, President Napolitano created the President’s Advisory Council on Student Veterans to advise her on issues related to student veterans, including outreach efforts and the overall student veteran experience at UC. Over the past few years, the University of California has experienced a growth of more than 40 percent in student veteran enrollment. Currently, UC enrolls more than 1,700 veterans and military personnel, roughly 74 percent of whom are undergraduates, and 26 percent graduate or professional students.

In response to growing demand, UC has been enhancing services, programs, and resources for student veterans, and all campuses have established Veterans Resource Centers to support veterans’ academic success. While the administrative structure, services, and resources vary by campus, all provide outreach, campus support, financial aid, and transition programs. Included in the work of the President’s Advisory Council is a national summit, which will be held in May, in collaboration with California State University, the California Community Colleges, and the California Department of Veterans Affairs. The summit will focus on the benefits that public higher education confers on student veterans, and on collaborative strategies to more optimally serve those who have served.

As more veterans return home from service, UC, along with California’s other public higher education segments, will continue to see its student veteran population grow, along with demand for services and support. UC is poised to take a leadership role in supporting student veterans, in collaboration with its public higher education partners.

Vice President Sakaki and UC Berkeley Program Director for Re-entry Student and Veteran Services Ron Williams will present an overview of services that UC provides for student veterans and an update on the upcoming summit.

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<sup>1</sup> Of interest to the Committee on Finance