

## Minutes

Military Education Council

January 7, 2021 11:00 am

Zoom Meeting

Present: Tom Teper, Jennifer Bateman, James Brennan, CAPT Anthony Corapi, Jon Ebel, LTC Dan Johnson, Surabhi Kiran, Angela Lyons, Jason Sakowski, Donovan Spann, and Lt Col Joseph Timberlake,  
Absent: Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Leanne Knobloch, and Weiliang Zhang

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. Motion to approve the minutes from the 11/6/2020 meeting by Prof. Ebel and seconded by LTC Johnson.

**December Commissioning:** LTC Johnson and CAPT Corapi reported that Army and Navy each had one student commission in December. Both held small in-person ceremonies for the students and their family and necessary cadre in Armory room 101. CAPT Corapi noted the importance of having in-person ceremonies and stated that if gathering restrictions were still in place, Navy would explore scheduling individual in-person Commissioning Ceremonies in May.

**MEC Membership:** Currently, the Military Education Council statutes require three of the six faculty members to be members of the University Senate. Filling the MEC faculty vacancies has been a recurring issue, and the Senate office suggested considering changing the required number of Senate members. This was discussed, and members felt that multiple Senate members were not required for the operation of the MEC, but that keeping a connection with at least one member in the Senate would be best. Also noted was the service burden for individuals on both the Senate and MEC, and how it could be difficult to find Senate members to take on that extra work. The group recommended that the requirement be changed to at least one of the six MEC faculty members being Senate members. Prof. Teper and Ms. Bateman will follow up with the Senate office regarding this change.

**FY22 Budget Report:** Armed Forces has been asked to plan for a 5% budget reduction in FY22. Prof. Teper explained the current \$205,500 budget is made up of 69% salary expenses and 20% required operational expenses, leaving very little in terms of flexibility. The unit has had one employee express interest in the voluntary retirement program, which, if refilled at a lower salary could achieve the necessary savings to cover a 5% reduction. If that retirement were not to go through, the only option we have is to cut funding to the ROTC departmental allocations that are used to support student programs. The current working draft of the report has been shared with the MEC members in box, and Prof. Teper requested that all review it and offer any input they may have.

Prof. Lyons commented that cuts were already made in the previous year that impact the service and experience students will receive in ROTC. She recommended flatly stating that the MEC recommends that no reduction be made to the already very small budget. Prof. Brennan suggested highlighting the benefit of scholarship money that ROTC brings to the University.

The military officers, CAPT Corapi and LTC Johnson both stated that while they felt that the budget shouldn't be cut, having to make budget cuts and accomplish the mission with less is something they've encountered throughout their careers. LTC Johnson noted that with less funds Army ROTC would still be

able to accomplish what is required, but activities that promote recruitment and retention would be eliminated or reduced.

The ROTC student organizations regularly raise funds to fund and supplement ROTC related activities, like travel to participate in optional competitions. This year, those fundraising opportunities, like working concession stands, were not available. Cadet Spann stated that clearer guidance to ROTC students and resources for fundraising activities would be helpful. This led to some discussion regarding the support of the Foundation. Though ROTC alumni may be an untapped source of funding- Naval and Army ROTC do receive regular small gifts, no one in Advancement is assigned to ROTC. ROTC alumni are generally seen as “belonging” to the college, and previous meetings with Foundation staff were not encouraging.

Mr. Sakowski mentioned the color guard services that ROTC provides to athletics, campus, and the community and asked if ROTC requested payment or donations for those activities. (ROTC provides these services for free as a community service.) Quantifying these activities and comparing to fee-based services that groups like the marching band provide may be something to consider for the report.

**Army Briefing:** In consideration of time, LTC Johnson’s briefing was tabled until the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.