

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Military Education Council

208 Armory Building  
505 East Armory Avenue  
Champaign, IL 61820



Military Education Council Meeting  
February 13, 2017 3:00 p.m.  
Army Library, Armory Room 114

Present: Thomas Teper - Chair, Jenny Bateman - MEC Secretary, Scott Althaus, Marni Boppart, Joe Brown, Omar Haney, Christopher Higgins, Lt Col Christopher Johnson, CAPT Charles Moore II, Matthias Perdekamp, Delmar Rhodes, Lynne Rudasill, Brock Russell, LTC Randall Smith

Absent: Michael Sandretto

### **Approval of Minutes**

There were no corrections to the provided minutes. LTC Johnson motioned and Prof. Rudasill seconded the approval of the minutes from the November 10, 2016 meeting with no objections.

### **Viola Koenigsberg Award Committee**

Prof. Teper explained that the Viola Koenigsberg award is for the top junior or senior female cadet or midshipman in ROTC. The MEC is responsible for administering the award. They receive nominations from each of the services and then a committee interviews the three candidates and then decide the recipient. He asked for volunteers to serve on the interview committee; Prof. Rudasill and Prof. Higgins agreed to serve. The interviews should take place the week of March 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Faculty Review Committee Review Process**

Members of the Faculty Review Committee have expressed a desire for increased clarity on the requirements for reviewing faculty nominations. There is uncertainty what the committee's responsibilities are- just checking off that requirements are met or evaluating the candidate.

Prof. Boppart, the chair of the Faculty Review Committee, explained that the need for clarity on the review of faculty nominations has been an issue that has come up several times in the past. In 2012, the MEC discussed if more solid requirements were necessary. Once it became clear that prior to the MEC receiving the nomination the candidates had been through a review process by the military, the committee decided not to add any requirements. There have been concerns, and at times, rejections, in cases where the nominee has poor grades. This became more of a concern after the general education course was added. The interpretation of the guideline requiring intention to enroll in a graduate program has changed over the years. First, evaluating if the candidate was admissible in a UIUC graduate program and then later, in any graduate program.

Prof. Rudasill stated her greatest concern when evaluating a candidate is that they have teaching or training experience. She also noted that the Provost must approve changes to nomination requirements. Prof. Althaus stated that the nomination procedure document is unclear as to what the Faculty Review Committee is asked to do. New members have relied on explanations from other committee members year to year and it would be best if those guidelines were written down so they are not lost or changed inadvertently.

The ROTC department heads stated that a consequence of creating more specific requirements for faculty is that it lessens the pool of possible applicants for the military to review for the school. Additionally, rejecting a nomination will typically result in the detachment having to operate on a short staff, as it would likely take up to six months for another candidate to be reviewed and nominated to the University. Lt Col Johnson and LTC Smith also mentioned the military teaching and cadre development training that their Assistant Professors must attend. CAPT Moore confirmed that the current process was to contact the CO of the service for additional information if the Faculty Review Committee had a question or concern about a candidate.

Prof. Boppart proposed to keep the current criteria but to create a document with guidelines and explanation of the approval process for the Faculty Review Committee. She will draft a document and circulate to the Faculty Review Committee prior to the next MEC meeting.

### **Military Science 120**

The general education course, MILS 120, is on the books, but has not been offered because of staffing shortages in the ROTC departments. Teaching the course would be an overload to the COs and it is beyond the requirements of their positions. However, the benefit of offering the course is the creation of a bridge between the general student population and the military.

Prof. Teper asked if the COs would be willing to offer the course in the fall. LTC Smith stated that he does not have a problem teaching, but cannot devote the time to research and prepare the required reading materials for the course. Lt Col Johnson suggested that instead of splitting the course between the three COs, to rotate the lead instructor each year, having guest lectures from the other two services. He offered to take it for Fall 2017.

It was proposed to try Lt Col Johnson's suggestion if there was enough time to get it on the catalog for Fall. One note was the necessity of advertising the course. If it does not get the necessary enrollment then the work to prepare will be wasted.

### **Upcoming Events**

Honors Day will be on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in Foellinger Auditorium. Approximately 130 awards from 40 organizations will be awarded to the cadets and midshipmen.

Spring Commissioning will be on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30 in Foellinger Auditorium. Following the ceremony, the three services will split up to do their first salutes. 26 are set to commission: 9 Air Force, 12 Army, 4 Navy, and 1 Marine. General Woodward, the National

Director of the Arnold Air Society, has been asked to be the guest speaker. Two alternate speakers have also been identified if he is unable to attend.

**Briefing**

LTC Smith gave a briefing on the Army ROTC program.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.