

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, 2019 1:00 pm
Navy Conference Room, 237B Armory Bldg

Present: Thomas Teper - Chair, Jenny Bateman - MEC Secretary, Scott Althaus, James Brennan, Joe Brown, CAPT Anthony Corapi, Tom Costello, MIDN Paul deLutio, Maj. Jason Heidbreder, Candace Martinez, and LTC Randall Smith

Absent: Lt Col Christopher Johnson, Athol Kemball, Angela Lyons, Ezequiel Barraza, and Chris Castle.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

LTC Smith motioned, Prof. Costello seconded, to approve the provided minutes from the November 28, 2018 meeting. They were approved with no objections.

After Action- Fall Commissioning

CAPT Corapi reported on a successful Fall Commissioning Ceremony. The event was well attended and the reception in the foyer area was an improvement to this year's event. Plans are to continue with the same format for the event in the future.

Upcoming Events

The two upcoming spring events, will be held in Foellinger Auditorium. **Honors Day** on April 6, 2019 and **Spring Commissioning** on May 13, 2019. Guest speakers for both events have been requested, but not confirmed.

Viola Koenigsberg Award Board

Prof. Teper explained that Ms. Koenigsberg had been one of the first volunteers for the WACs and was very involved in community service until her death. At that time, her family established the Viola Koenigsberg Tri-Service Outstanding Female award to honor her memory. A female cadet/midshipmen is nominated by each of our ROTC services and a board of MEC members conducts interviews and selects the recipient. Prof. Teper requested volunteers to serve on the interview board, which will take place in March. Candace Martinez and Jim Brennan volunteered to serve.

Navy Scholarship Process Change

CAPT Corapi explained a change in process Naval ROTC is taking to assign 4-year scholarship recipients to Universities. Students that apply for the Naval ROTC scholarship list their top school choices during the application process. In previous years, NROTC “level loaded” the scholarship recipients to allow for even distribution of scholarships at units across the country. As they moved through the scholarship board process, when some schools were “filled” a recipient would be offered a scholarship to their second or third choice school. As these applicants are extremely competitive, NROTC found that recipients would sometimes decline the scholarship when they were not able to attend their first choice school and would pursue scholarship opportunities elsewhere.

In response to this, NROTC has stopped level loading the scholarships and instead are allowing all recipients their first choice school. As the scholarship boards for the upcoming year have progressed, few students have selected UIUC as their top choice. CAPT Corapi provided the following information on the scholarships awarded so far:

- 554 FY19 scholarships have been awarded (ALL APPLICANTS RECEIVED 1ST CHOICE)
- 3 Applicants chose University of Illinois as their #1
 - Their home states: HI, CA, MD
- 21 Applicants hail from the state of Illinois (ZERO PICKED University of Illinois)
 - *Where they are going*
 - Duke (1)
 - Auburn (1)
 - Vanderbilt (2)
 - University of Pennsylvania (2)
 - Notre Dame (1)
 - University of Missouri (1)
 - University of Mississippi (1)
 - University of Minnesota (2)
 - University of California at Berkeley (1)
 - Texas A&M (2)
 - Rice University (2)
 - MIT (3)
 - Holy Cross (1)
 - Michigan University (1)
- BIG10 Schools:
 - OSU (4)
 - University of Illinois (3)
 - University of Michigan (13)
 - Iowa (6)
 - Purdue (20)
 - University of Minnesota (8)
 - Penn State (11)
 - University of Wisconsin (8)
 - University of Maryland (8)
 - Rutgers (9)

The concern is that our Naval ROTC unit will become smaller (typically, the unit gets 10-15 scholarship recipients each year). This could lead to elimination of cadre and will definitely reduce the scholarship money that ROTC brings into the University. Some other schools offer benefits to ROTC students that improve their desirability, like room and board scholarships, and dedicated ROTC housing. Even though it has a highly ranked engineering program, UIUC does

not offer enough to entice NROTC students (majority of whom are in a technical major) to select this University.

LTC Smith and Maj Heidbreder echoed that Army and Air Force have also seen a reduced number of their scholarship applicants with an interest in this University. LTC Smith said that they are expecting an increase in their scholarship students this coming year, but that it is likely because Mr. Ashworth, who is responsible for Army ROTC recruitment, has been personally reaching out to scholarship applicants.

CAPT Corapi has plans to start a recruiting effort on campus (something Naval ROTC has never done) to try to add college programmers who will compete for 3 year scholarships. LTC Smith spoke of joint marketing and working with the recruiting offices in the colleges to advertise the tuition waiver as a tool to bring students into the programs.

Prof. Brennan stated that he is a member of the University Senate Conference, and that the issue of outflow of students from Illinois is an issue of concern for the group, which has led to the continued tuition freeze on campus.

Budget Report

Prof. Teper explained that the budget report for the unit is due on March 1. Similar to previous years, the reports asks for a summary of the unit, budgetary information- to include plans for a 1.5% reduction, and threats and opportunities facing the unit.

Opportunities included in the draft at this time are: *Program Growth*- The units are staffed to accommodate growth in enrollment; *Priority Registration*; *ROTC attribute*-which was added to facilitate priority registration, but will have other benefits to advising, data, and advancement; *IT support improvements*; *improved facilities*; *MILS120*; and *advancement*.

Threats listed are *Incentivized Recruitment Programs*- other schools offering incentives to recruit and sometimes 'poach' scholarship recipients, and *Competitive Placement*- the Naval ROTC issue CAPT Corapi spoke of. *Illinois Promise* was also listed as a threat, but will be removed, as after further research, the Officers felt it would not be as large of a threat to recruitment as originally anticipated.

Prof. Teper asked for any comment or additions. Prof. Althaus mentioned that the scholarship money brought in by ROTC could be eye opening to the reader. He suggested providing the information based on the number of students may better highlight that information.

Faculty Review Committee Guidelines

The Army has nominated a candidate for the PMS (department head) position who by all accounts is very well qualified, but is an O-4 rank. The current faculty review guidelines list that a department head should be an O-5 or O-6 rank. The question was asked: Should the faculty review guidelines be changed to allow for an O-4, or should an O-4 be rejected for this position?

	O-4	O-5	O-6
Army/Air Force/Marines	Major	Lieutenant Colonel	Colonel
Navy	Lieutenant Commander	Commander	Captain

Ms. Bateman explained that the guidelines were created as a supplement to the Nomination Procedures Document in order to provide clarity for the Faculty Review Committee when reviewing nominations. The rank information in the guidelines was included because those have been the typical ranks for the positions listed. The official procedures, however, do not specify rank and just require a graduate degree.

LTC Smith and Prof. Teper explained that the Army has started nominating competitive O-4's to the PMS position to allow them to move on to battalion command after this assignment. Most often, this position has been a last stop before retirement from the Army. One concern about this change is the greater disparity between our services' commanding officers (typically, Navy has an O-6 department head, Air Force and Army have been O-5). Another concern, having a O-4 in command of other O-4's within the unit, and possibility (while unlikely) that one of the Assistant Professor O-4's could be promoted ahead of the Department Head.

After some discussion, the recommendation of the group was to keep the guidelines as written, but to allow for exceptions, such as this one, when the candidate is exceptional.

Early Registration

Prof. Teper reported priority registration has been approved for enrolled ROTC students and will be in effect for the coming registration for Fall 2019.

Briefing

CAPT Corapi gave a briefing on the Naval ROTC program.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.