

MILITARY EDUCATION COUNCIL

208 Armory Building, MC 526
505 East Armory Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820

Military Education Council Meeting
April 17, 2019 1:30 p.m.
Navy Conference Room, 237B Armory Bldg

Present: Thomas Teper-Chair, Jenny Bateman-MEC Secretary, Scott Althaus, James Brennan, Joe Brown, CAPT Anthony Corapi, MIDN Paul deLutio, Maj. Jason Heidbreder, Lt Col Christopher Johnson, Angela Lyons, Candace Martinez, and LTC Randall Smith. From the Arnold Air Society, Cadet Tyler Solomon and Cadet Shauna Oliver

Absent: Tom Costello, Athol Kembal, Ezequiel Barraza, and Chris Castle

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

Arnold Air Society

Cadets Solomon and Oliver gave a presentation on the Air Force ROTC student RSO, the Arnold Air Society. This coming weekend (April 20-21), the local squadron is planning to put in a bid to be the leadership organization's national headquarters in the upcoming academic year. They requested a letter of University support as well as financial support from the MEC/University in the amount of \$13,000. They have raised \$5000 with other fundraising initiatives. The U of I squadron had most recently been selected as national headquarters in 2016. In that case, MEC was able to provide \$6,000 in funding to the organization and helped to facilitate the request for a letter of support and an additional \$9,000 from the Provost. The request was discussed by the MEC, and it was agreed that Prof. Teper would draft a letter of support and request to the Provost. If selected as headquarters, MEC can provide \$3000 in funding.

Approval of Minutes

Prof. Althaus motioned and Lt Col Johnson seconded the approval of the minutes from the February 13, 2019 with no changes.

Events

Ms. Bateman reported a successful Honors Day ceremony on April 6, 2019. Approximately 140 individual awards were presented to cadets/midshipmen. Eleven presenters from sponsoring organizations were in attendance, two had to cancel last minute. Dr. Stuart King, member of the University Board of Trustees, attended. There was discussion of the appropriate listing for Marine option students in the program and script. Next year MCEPs will be listed as Marines instead of under the Navy heading.

Lt Col Johnson reported that the Tri-Service Spring Commissioning Ceremony will be in Foellinger Auditorium on May 13th at 10:00 a.m. Maj. Gen. Michael Zerbonia, Assistant Adjutant General, Army, National Guard, will be the guest speaker. Thirty students will be commissioned (12 Army, 2 Marine, 5 Navy, 11 Air Force).

Credits for ROTC Coursework

Capt. Corapi spoke of a recent situation where a non-ROTC student in AHS had opted to take one of the Naval Science 100 level courses and was informed by his advisor that the he would not receive any credit for the course. The college has a listing of courses from various programs that they impose credit limitations on. In addition to a credit hours limitation, it has a list of specific ROTC courses that they will accept, only for students enrolled in ROTC.

The student brought this issue to the Assistant Dean at AHS and they will be requesting a review of all ROTC courses at the next Council of Undergraduate Deans (COUD) meeting. The gen ed course MILS 120, the ROTC courses that count for the Leadership Studies minor, and this issue were all noted as reasons to necessitate the review. The limitations on acceptance of ROTC credit varies with each college throughout the University. Naval ROTC is compiling this information. Prof. Teper has contacted Kathy Martensen in the Provost's Office, indicating that Capt. Corapi has volunteered to talk to the COUD and that we are gathering information to share.

Budget

Prof. Teper reported that there has been no response yet on the FY20 budget request. That request included additional funding for recruitment and for installation of security cameras in the building. Ms. Bateman has asked the commanding officers for requests for spending the remaining FY19 funding. The funding that was received for rental of the campus rec fields ended up being more than was necessary. The fields were not used as much as estimated both because of weather and ROTC need. Ms. Bateman requested an estimate on how often the services planned to use the fields next academic year to help plan this expense. Prof. Teper felt that we should check with the Provost before spending this money for another purpose. It was suggested that it could be used toward the security camera initiative.

Recruitment

Following up on the last meeting report of recruitment concerns, the commanding officers reported that they have 24 scholarship students incoming next year (10 Army, 8 Naval, 6 Air Force). Most of the Army students have received 3 year scholarships and have been offered the in-state tuition waiver to cover the first year as a recruitment tool. These numbers are less than they would like to see. There have continued to be instances of students selecting another school over U of I when that school has been able to offer additional incentives like room and board. CAPT Corapi mentioned a particular engineering prospect who was currently deciding between U of I and Purdue, and Purdue has offered him room and board. LTC Smith said that he had a contact at Engineering that he would share with CAPT Corapi. Contacting the college to see if they could provide anything might be worth a try.

Faculty Turnover

Army Commanding Officer, LTC Smith and Air Force Commanding Officer, Lt Col Johnson are both leaving the University and retiring from the military at the end of this academic year. Prof. Teper presented them both with plaques from the Military Education Council and thanked them for their service to the U of I ROTC programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30



Lt Col Johnson, Prof. Teper



LTC Smith, Prof. Teper