

**MILITARY EDUCATION COUNCIL**

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

Military Education Council Minutes  
August 31, 2021 2:00 PM  
Zoom Meeting

Present: Thomas Teper, Jenny Bateman, James Brennan, CAPT Dave Casteel, Kent Choquette, Yulanda Curtis, Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, LTC Dan Johnson, Zackary Landers, Angela Lyons, Matthew Rodriguez, Peter Silhan, and MIDN Emma Thompson

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm and introductions were made. Minutes from the 4/29/21 meeting were provided, and Prof Teper requested to add a line in the section of about the update to faculty review documents that Military Assistant Professors can pursue their graduate degree at any institution. With that change, Prof. Choquette motioned, and Prof. Lyons seconded to approve the minutes.

Prof. Teper explained the various subcommittees for the Military Education Council. The Faculty Review Committee is the only one that has regular responsibility, reviewing and approving the military faculty appointments. The Commanding Officers of the three units stated they would have approximately four nominations for the subcommittee to review this academic year. Prof. Silhan, Prof. Choquette, and Prof. Curtis volunteered to serve on the Faculty Review Committee.

**IL State Tuition Waiver.** Prof. Teper explained that there had recently been some questions regarding the number of waivers the statute that the ROTC Illinois State Tuition Waiver provides. It states, “the equivalent 10 scholarships, per class, per branch of service, each academic year.” The unit requested guidance from University Legal Counsel on if branch meant the three departments of Army, Air Force and Navy, or should include Marines and Space Force as separate branches, and if the current practice of awarding up to 120 waivers each semester (40 per service) was the appropriate amount. Legal Counsel’s interpretation was that the waiver provides for the three departments as branches, and that the current practice of up to 120 waivers is appropriate. In addition, there was a request for clarification on the number of scholarships provided to Parkland College students by the waiver. There are a total of three, and the Commanding Officers agreed to split them as one per department.

**Room and Board Scholarship** The University provides Room and Board scholarships to ROTC federal scholarship recipients as a recruitment tool. When initially approved, the scholarship covered 15 full room and board scholarships, however the cost of room and board has increased this academic year. Ms. Bateman stated that she had requested clarification on the total amount that ROTC had available to award for this program this academic year from Financial Aid. At this point, the response is that the

## MILITARY EDUCATION COUNCIL

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

same initial dollar amount, \$172,200, is available. This will cover just over 13 full scholarships. The request for 15 full scholarships has been elevated to the director at that unit. As the scholarships are typically awarded just after the ten-day enrollment date, the units will split the total dollar amount into thirds to make their award decisions, and transfer any amount not used between services.

**Military Veteran Academic Credit Self-Study Report** Prof. Teper provided an update that the committee tasked with reviewing the University's acceptance of military credit had completed their report and he would share the report with the Council. At this point the University is looking to create a committee tasked with putting into action items addressed in the report. Prof. Teper explained that this committee was initially tasked after there was potential legislation put forward requiring state universities to accept credit from military schools and for military training. The current acceptance process allows for very few credits to be awarded, and has been a deterrent for some student Veterans to attend at University of Illinois.

**Update to Nomination Procedures and Faculty Review Guidelines Documents** The two documents guiding faculty approvals were provided with potential updates. Initially, the update was just to correct the title of the Assistant Professor ROTC faculty members to "Military Assistant Professor," as this is the official position title used when hired in the University system. At the previous meeting, there was additional discussion on clarifying degree requirements for Military Assistant Professors. Additional updates include statements that Military Assistant Professors are expected to pursue a graduate degree if they do not already have one, and that they do not have to pursue the degree at the University of Illinois though they should have the potential to be accepted to the University of Illinois graduate school. Also, there is an update to clarify who will teach the general education course, MILS 120. Prof. Jenkins moved and Prof. Brennan seconded to approve the updates to the Nomination Procedures and Faculty Review Guidelines documents.

**9/11 Memorial Stair Climb** CAPT Casteel reported that Naval ROTC is planning the memorial stair climb on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> in Memorial Stadium with check in at 5:00 am and a 6:00 am start. The ROTC units and local first responders will participate. There is also opportunity for other members of the University community to participate, with a limit of 300 people total. For the stair climb, participants climb the same number of stairs that first responders climbed to rescue people at the top of the World Trade Center on 9/11.

**POW/MIA Vigil** Lt. Col. Timberlake reported that Air Force ROTC is planning the vigil that will take place on the south side of the Illini Union. Cadets and Midshipmen from the three services will patrol the POW/MIA flag for 24 hours. Students will play taps on the hour.



## MILITARY EDUCATION COUNCIL

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

**Briefing- Air Force** Lt. Col. Timberlake gave a briefing on the Air Force ROTC unit. They currently have 91 students, 2 officer instructors, 2 NCOs, and 1 civil service staff member. They have plans to host an Air Force ROTC athletic competition on October 16<sup>th</sup> where Air Force ROTC students from other Universities will come to compete in the “War for the Sword.” Their unit is in process of receiving three flight simulator stations- that will be set up for use by all ROTC students. They also recently completed relocation of their uniform room in order to set up a gym space for Air Force ROTC students.