

**MILITARY EDUCATION COUNCIL**

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

Military Education Council Meeting  
September 17, 2019 2:00 p.m.  
Room 237B Armory Building

Present: Tom Teper, Jennifer Bateman, Joe Brown, Tom Costello, CAPT Anthony Corapi, Jon Ebel, MAJ Daniel Johnson, Athol Kemball, Angela Lyons, Lt.Col. Joseph Timberlake, and Cadet Sydney Shephard

Absent: Jeffrey Jenkins, Candace Martinez, Jack Marshall

**Introductions & Approval of Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. Introductions were made. Prof. Teper explained the Military Education Council, its charge, and activities. Prof. Costello moved, and CAPT Corapi seconded to approve the provided minutes from the April 17, 2019 meeting with no changes.

**Subcommittees**

Prof. Teper explained the three subcommittees of the council and their purposes. Athol Kemball, Jon Ebel, and Angela Lyons volunteered to serve on the Faculty Review Committee. Committee on Course and Program Approval and Program Evaluation and the Interdepartmental Coordination Committee are committees of the whole.

**Room and Board Scholarship Program**

When high school students are awarded a Federal ROTC scholarship, they are able to use it any institution offering their ROTC program that they are accepted to. Naval ROTC previously “load balanced” their scholarships- requiring students to sometimes attend their second or third choice school in order to keep enrollment across their programs even, but they have moved to a model allowing students to always attend their first choice school. These students, who come in with full 3 or 4-year tuition scholarships, have become sought after by other institutions, creating a competitive recruiting environment for the institutions. Other institutions have started offering incentives (like room and board or in-state tuition, for example) to get students to select their school. The Commanding Officers noted several instances of students that had planned to attend U of I changing their mind because of incentives offered by other schools, as well as inquiries from potential students asking what U of I can offer in order to compare options. In response to this, MEC requested a pilot room and board scholarship program for first year scholarship students in the FY20 budget request.

This request was approved, allowing 15 full or 30 half room and board scholarships, with direction to work with the Financial Aid office. The provided memo outlining the purpose of the scholarship and the specifications for awarding it was drafted by Prof. Teper and the Commanding Officers. It is awaiting review and approval from Financial Aid, which is expected later this week. Financial Aid will also let us know if the scholarships can be awarded this year. Suggestions for edits to the memo were to further

explain load balancing and include the benefits the room and board scholarship will bring to the University.

### **Credits for Coursework**

There is an inconsistency across campus on how credit is awarded for ROTC coursework. Colleges appear to range from accepting from 6 credits to 20 credits, and have lists of specific accepted or not allowed courses that have no rhyme or reason. Moreover, some of the courses appear to be non-existent anymore. Toward the end of the last academic year, this issue came up when a non-ROTC student was taking a Naval Science course, but was advised by his advisor to drop the course because he would not get any credit for it toward graduation. The student followed up with his college leadership. Eventually, Gretchen Adams, Asst. Dean for Undergraduate Students in AHS, made a request to have the Council of Undergraduate Deans review the policies for accepting ROTC coursework.

Over the summer of 2019, the Registrar's Office raised questions about the inconsistencies in counting these courses toward credit due, in part, to the new cross-listing of ROTC courses with the Leadership Studies Minor and the establishment of the gen ed course MILS 120. Several colleges revised their policies to allow for these instances, but the issue is expected to be brought up at the Council of Undergraduate Deans meeting this week. Prof. Teper will follow up with Prof. Adams for an update on CoUD's discussion and concerns.

This is an issue for enrolled ROTC students who do not get credit toward these academic courses, which still count toward their GPA, their standing in respective ROTC cadres, and eventual placement in the service. But, this is also an issue, for non-ROTC students who will not take ROTC courses if they don't get credit for them. Non-ROTC students bring a diverse perspective to ROTC courses that is valued by instructors. Prof. Kemball suggested that this might be something that could be brought up to the General Education Committee for review. Prof. Teper will update the group via email after following up with Gretchen Adams and Bill Bernard, and Ms. Bateman will put together a box file for members to view ROTC course lists and syllabi. That way, the MEC can conduct a review in anticipation for communications with the General Education Committee or other appropriate bodies.

### **9/11 Memorial Stair Climb**

CAPT Corapi reported on the first stair climb event that took place on September 11<sup>th</sup> at Memorial Stadium. In previous years, ROTC has memorialized 9/11 with a run that included local law enforcement and fire departments, but this year they wanted to have an event that would add some meaning for the participants. The ROTC cadets and midshipmen along with local first responders- fire, police, and some FBI climbed 1980 steps at the stadium, the same number that first responders would have climbed at the World Trade Center. The event was very successful and had great coverage from local media outlets.

Next year, they would like to open the event to campus and community, with an admission fee going to a charitable fund. There are some liability issues to work out, but there should be time to address this before next year and plenty of time to promote it in the community.

### **Veterans Day**

CAPT Corapi reported that Naval ROTC will also be coordinating the Tri-Service Veterans Day luncheon which will take place in the Union. They are currently working on selecting a guest speaker for the event. They hope to improve their outreach to veteran faculty and staff on campus, specifically at F&S where they may put out some signage.

MAJ Johnson also noted the November 2<sup>nd</sup> football game that will have the “Salute to Veterans” theme. The ROTC units will be very involved in the activities taking place that day, to include a fly-over, Tri-Service Color Guard, and Veterans Tailgate. Two free tickets for Veterans will be available for the game.

### **Joint Dining Out Request**

Cadet Shephard stated that the student leadership for the three ROTC units are interested in doing a joint Dining Out this December. She asked if MEC would be able to provide funding for the event. Prof. Teper asked that she put together a budget of what they are asking for, and it would be reviewed to see if funding is feasible this year. Ms. Bateman mentioned that it is possible to budget for this in future years as a tri-service event, but funding for this year may be more difficult.

### **Navy Briefing**

CAPT Corapi gave a briefing on the Naval ROTC program.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.