

Military Education Council Meeting
September 25, 2020 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present: Tom Teper, Jenny Bateman, James Brennan, CAPT Anthony Corapi, Jonathan Ebel, Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, LTC Daniel Johnson, Surabhi Kiran, Angela Lyons, Donovan Spann, and Lt Col Joseph Timberlake.

Not Present: Weiliang Zhang

The meeting was brought to order at 10:04 am. Introductions were made and the minutes from the 4/16/20 meeting were approved with no changes.

Prof. Teper gave a summary of the various sub-committees of the Military Education Council. The Faculty Review Committee is the most active sub-committee and Jonathan Ebel, Angela Lyons, and James Brennan agreed to serve on it this year. The other sub-committees are committees of the whole. Prof. Teper mentioned that that committees structure was last updated in 1994, and it may be good to look at revising or restructuring it sometime this year.

Faculty Appointments

Over the summer, the Faculty Review Committee had voiced concerns about some faculty nominations and the topic was brought forth to address if requirements and guidelines for faculty approval should be adjusted. Prof. Teper noted the Nomination Requirements were updated in 2012 and Guidelines to the Faculty Review Committee were created in 2017, both available in the Military Education Council Documents Box file.

Prof. Lyons expressed that she had noticed a shift in the profile of candidates over her time on the Faculty Review Committee, primarily based around contractor filled positions instead of active duty. She questioned if the pool of candidates would look like in the future and if revised guidelines were necessary to account for candidates who have different teaching experiences and having been removed from the service for some time. She also questioned if it would be good to add 'visiting' to the titles of contractor assistant professors.

Prof. Ebel stated that when a candidate has been away from the service for some time, the review committee tends to look closer at the GPA and other experience aspects of the nomination packet. He asked how the teaching experience translates to success as an ROTC instructor.

LTC Johnson has two current contractor positions in Army ROTC. He stated that at times it can be difficult to know on paper how a contractor will succeed as an instructor in the unit when they have been away from the service for some time. Their experience may not be as relevant to today's applications and sometimes values do not align well with the values at the University. He suggested the possibility of a probationary period for contracted instructors.

Prof. Jenkins felt that it is important to align the ROTC appointment process with how other appointments take place at the University. He also noted that specific titles have certain implications regarding notice rights.

Ms. Bateman explained that the appointments are officially titled “Military Assistant Professor” and have 0% unpaid positions with the University. They don’t have any notice rights, the appointments are for an academic year, and can be ended at the end of the year whenever someone rotates out. The employment is through the military or contracting agency and so those organizations are issuing the offer to the employee.

Prof. Teper stated that he and Ms. Bateman would update our documents to indicate the “Military Assistant Professor” title to offer more clarity. The group agreed this would be helpful.

As the allotted meeting time was coming to an end, the other agenda items were pushed to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.