

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Military Education Council

208 Armory Building
505 East Armory Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820



Military Education Council Meeting
November 29, 2012 9:30 am
Air Force Classroom, 325 Armory Bldg.

Present: Alexander Scheeline, Chair, Jennifer Bateman, Secretary, LTC Phil Bauer, Jack Dempsey, CAPT James Haugen, Sean Musil, Arne Pearlstein, and LTC Eric Stetson
Absent: Marni Boppart, Susan Brewer, Sean Brokaw, Janeen Johnson, Nick Larson, John Randolph, and Michael Sandretto,

Call to Order

Prof. Scheeline called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. Dr. Dempsey moved approval of the Minutes from the September 11, 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by CAPT Haugen, and approved by voice vote.

New Business

Prof. Scheeline announced that Ms. Bateman's position was recently audited and upgraded to a Business/Administrative Associate. With this change, she will officially be backup for department secretarial staff and will be available to assist with coordination of tri-service events and with other departmental needs. Ms. Bateman will also be out for maternity leave roughly from March to June. Arrangements have been made to cover her duties while she is out. The Viola Koenigsberg Award will be decided slightly earlier than usual and the first MEC meeting of the Spring Semester will be scheduled early in the year to accommodate.

Report on Tri-Service Events

LTC Bauer reported that the POW/MIA vigil was successful with no incidents. It was covered on the front page of the *Daily Illini* the following day. There was some discussion on broadening campus connection with the event. Veterans' Services could notify students they serve.

CAPT Haugen reported that the Veterans Day ceremony was fantastic overall. Jack Dempsey gave the main speech; it was moving and very well received. Refreshment quantity and setup could have been improved. More experience with and better settings for the new sound system would make it easier for cadets and civilians alike to hear the proceedings. Holding the ceremony on Sunday appears to increase community participation; the 2013 ceremony will be held on November 10. Timing from noon through evening was discussed; it was agreed that an early afternoon observance would be best.

More involvement with student veterans is desired. The COs have been looking into a parade of veterans uniforms. The cost of historical uniforms is about \$1,000 each. Donations of uniforms from veterans might accelerate collection and cut cost. Dr. Dempsey mentioned that Provost Adesida enjoyed the ceremony and suggested capitalizing on his interest.

Prof. Scheeline stated that they had hoped to get more PR out before the ceremony, but there were articles in *Inside Illinois* and the *Daily Illini* afterward. It was advertised in eWeek prior to the date and was listed in the *News Gazette's* list of Veterans Day events. He is planning to contact the *News Gazette* early next year to catalyze getting advance coverage from them.

Report on Naval ROTC Association Meeting

Prof. Scheeline gave a short report on the NROTC Association Meeting he attended in Florida in October. He described the meeting as a glorified MEC meeting of representatives from other schools with NROTC programs. They took a tour of Special Operations Command at McDill Air Force Base and the ROTC facility at the University of South Florida. USF also has all three services at their campus and are only slightly more “joint” than ours in their shared use of space and proximity of offices. Dr. Dempsey expressed interest in attending next year’s meeting.

CAPT Haugen mentioned Prof. Scheeline’s previous suggestion of the units sharing their fitness equipment. He and the other CO’s felt the problem with this is that they do not have a shared space where the equipment could be stored and used, and there would not be enough equipment if there was overlap in the times they needed to use it.

ROTC Classes

Prof. Scheeline stated that he had attended one class in each of the services this semester. He felt the faculty was doing a good job of teaching and not just administering the material supplied to them by the military. He mentioned the need of improvement to the condition of Navy classroom 337. CAPT Haugen stated they had just used some of their funds to put in a new computer, projector and sound system in that classroom. Prof. Scheeline encouraged the other faculty members to attend some ROTC classes so they can get a better idea of what is happening.

LTC Stetson reported that the Army has instituted greater development of their faculty prior to deploying them to ROTC posts. They are now required to attend the Instructor Training Course (ITC) where they focus on teaching methods. He said that perhaps in the future MEC faculty could visit ITC.

Commissioning

Fall Commissioning will be in Lincoln Hall Auditorium on Saturday, December 22nd at 4:00 pm. A reminder will be sent to MEC members prior to the event. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Armory Building Issues

LTC Stetson had asked to discuss some issues with the Armory Building. First, he wanted to explore if the building had any historical designation, or if it should. Prof. Scheeline explained that the building was built in 1914 and was quite a feat at the time with the large unsupported roof

expanse. He said that any building on campus older than 50 years may be considered 'historical' and would be protected by the community. They would need to explore further if an official historical designation would be a help or hindrance. Dr. Dempsey said that Melvyn Skvarla, the campus preservation officer, would be the person to contact to find out more about this. Prof. Scheeline will contact him.

Two other issues were the flagpole on the south-side roof of the building and the concrete pylon at the south-central entrance that is missing. Currently the flagpole is in poor condition and not in working order. LTC Stetson suggested replacement of the flagpole and addition of solar-powered illumination to keep it permanently illuminated. He also felt that when the missing concrete pylon is replaced, it could include a plate with historical information. Such placement in time for the building's centenary would be timely. LTC Stetson said that he had previously been in contact with Gary Schweighart about the flagpole, and Mr. Schweighart was concerned with the safety of the pole and building roof structure. Dr. Dempsey said Mr. Schweighart's supervisor would be able to assist with these two issues and would get in contact with MSG Staub.

Military Minor

Prof. Sandretto was unable to attend the meeting, but sent an email to Prof. Scheeline regarding the status of the minor which Prof. Scheeline read to the Council. One requirement for a minor proposal is an estimate of how many students might take the minor. He felt that Business School students were a likely audience and that the Business School might be interested in the minor. A potential problem is that it is required that the proposal comes from a degree granting unit, and since ROTC is not degree-granting we need to have another department put forward the proposal.

Prof. Pearlstein felt that Business would work as a host for the minor if a more suitable department like Political Science or History were not willing to host it. Prof. Scheeline thought that History would not be interested, but the possibilities with Political Science could be explored. Prof. Scheeline said he felt the ball was finally rolling on the minor and was optimistic that they would have something to move forward with next semester.

Other Business

Dr. Dempsey mentioned that the University would be beginning the search for his replacement and the replacement of the similar position in Chicago in January. He asked if the CO's knew anyone that may be interested, as someone with a military background is often well suited for this position because of the variety of their experience.

LTC Bauer presented pictures of the solution they were able to work out for their sign over their entry door. Since the entryway had been upgraded, they could no longer hang their previous wooden sign and have worked out a solution of a vinyl signage that will go over the windows. He said that the other Armory doorways are supposed to be redone within the next few years and at that time the other departments will require similarly remodeled signs as well.

LTC Bauer also said he expected to have his replacement's nomination packet in December or January.

Mr. Musil mentioned a few mistakes he found on the MEC website and library information page. Ms. Bateman will work to get them corrected.

LTC Bauer gave a briefing on the Air Force ROTC program.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.