

Military Education Council Meeting
November 6, 2020 11:00 am
online via Zoom

Present: Tom Teper, Jenny Bateman, James Brennan, CAPT Anthony Corapi, Jonathan Ebel, LTC Daniel Johnson, Surabhi Kiran, Lt Col Joseph Timberlake, Jason Sakowski, and Donovan Spann

Absent: Jeffery Eric Jenkins, Angela Lyons, Weiliang Zhang

The meeting was brought to order at 11:00 am. The new Chancellor's Representative to the Council, Jason Sakowski, was introduced to the group.

The Minutes from the 9/23/20 meeting were approved with no changes. Prof. Ebel motioned to approve and Prof. Brennan seconded.

Events

CAPT Corapi reported on the **9/11 Memorial Stair climb** that took place the morning of September 11 at Memorial Stadium. Because of precautions this year, the various services had staggered times instead of all completing the stair climb at the same time. There was good local media coverage of the event. The hope is to eventually make this into an event that is open to campus and use it as a fundraiser for fallen firefighters.

Lt Col Timberlake reported on the **POW/MIA vigil** that took place outside the south end of the Illini Union on September 18. Cadets and midshipmen from the four services volunteered for time slots to protect the flags over a 24 hour period and a student played taps on the hour.

CAPT Corapi reported on plans to honor **Veterans Day**. In previous years, they have held a luncheon for veterans in conjunction with the Chez Center. However, COVID precautions this year required them to rethink that event. Instead, they have worked with the local Rotary club to hold a drive through event at Hessel Park. A color guard will be posted and Veterans will be invited to drive through and pick up a pre-packaged lunch. Local radio personality, Diane Ducey will be promoting the event.

Two small **December Commissioning** ceremonies will take place on December 18th. Naval ROTC and Army ROTC each have one student commissioning. Both services will hold a small in-person Commissioning Ceremony for the Commissionee and their family. The ceremonies may be streamed or recorded for sharing with the rest of the detachment/battalion and friends and family.

Senate Committees Input

Prof. Teper received a request from the Senate Executive Committee for input regarding 1) the scope of the committee's work, 2) relationship with the Senate and other committees, 3) Committees structure, and 4) policy roles. The MEC discussed these questions and noted that the structure of the MEC as a separate body from the Senate and separate from any college sometimes creates hinderances in accomplishing changes like establishing a minor or addressing credit restrictions for ROTC coursework. There may be more that the committee could do, but it doesn't have the appropriate authority to accomplish it and the council work relies on members who's work is in excess of their roles on campus. Prof. Teper will draft a response to the SEC based on the discussion.

Navy Briefing

CAPT Corapi gave a briefing on how Naval ROTC has handled the return to in-person learning this fall in light of the COVID pandemic.

Adjourn At 11:56 Prof. Brennan motioned to adjourned, second by Prof. Ebel.