

Military Education Council
December 9, 2010

9:00 a.m. - 237 Armory – Navy ROTC Host

Present: Lynne Rudasill, George Friedman, Marni Boppart, Kristin Hoganson, Jason McCarley, Jack Dempsey, Alex Scheeline (by phone), LTC Anthony Kauffman, CAPT Kent Aitcheson, MAJ Jay Luckritz;
Student Reps: Bao Bui, Kylie DeMeuse

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Lynne Rudasill at 9:00 a.m. The new MEC Secretary, Jenny Klein, was introduced.

George Friedman requested that the October 18th Minutes be formatted and corrected before approval. They will be submitted for approval at the next MEC meeting. The Minutes of the May 7th meeting were approved.

Lynne Rudasill presented letter of congratulation from the Military Education Council to the ROTC faculty for being listed on the "List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students- Spring 2010." Letters were presented to Air Force Aerospace Studies for CAPT Anthony Coats, CAPT Michael Gioia, and CAPT Scott Wright; Military Science for MAJ Jay Luckritz and COL Donald Stenzel; and Naval Science for LT Daniel Bradley.

CAPT Aitcheson reported that the Tri-Service Veterans Day Ceremony went well. Chad Garland, the President of Illini Veterans, was the guest speaker. There was no money spent on the event and it was well attended. He also reported that the Homecoming Parade went well and had good participation.

The Report on the NROTC meeting was moved to the next MEC Meeting.

On Scholarships, LTC Kauffman reported that the Air Force had 4 out of state scholarships at this time, all freshmen. CAPT Aitcheson was of the understanding that the out of state scholarship was not being supported this year. MAJ Luckritz had no report.

CAPT Aitcheson reported that Fall Commissioning will be on December 19th in Huff Hall Rm 112 at 11:00 a.m. There will be four students commissioned: two from the Air Force, one from the Navy, and one from the Marines. He stated that the first half of the Ceremony would take place at Huff and the second half would be at the Armory.

Lynne Rudasill requested volunteers to research Early Registration. George Friedman pointed out that in the May Minutes it is noted that "for the ROTC students to be considered for priority registration, they would need to provide quantitative support of scheduling issues that has prevented the student from graduating on time in the past." CAPT Aitcheson and Alex Scheeline volunteered to look into this matter further. Last spring the Student Senate passed a resolution in support of allowing ROTC students to register early.

The idea of the Military Education Minor was discussed. There are several questions that were put forward: What procedures and channels do we need to go through to accomplish this?

Who would be the home department? Lynne Rudasill stated that perhaps a department like Business would be suitable because of the leadership qualities. George Friedman thought that MEC could be the home department. Questions of whether the MEC could be the home department without being a tenure home was raised. It was stated that there are other minors at the University without tenure homes. Jason McCarley brought up Neuroscience as an example. George Friedman stated that even though they are not tenured, MEC has faculty that are approved by other mechanisms and could be the home.

What coursework would be included? It was stated that a minor would need to include 18-20 credit hours and upper and lower level coursework. MAJ Luckritz said that including advanced coursework (300 & 400 level) may be a problem. Another question raised: would the minor include coursework from one branch, or a combination of the three? George Friedman requested the department heads' input.

What is the precedent for a Military Education Minor at other schools?

Why does the MEC want a Military Education Minor? A minor is desired both to allow students who take ROTC courses to receive full University credit for their coursework and to encourage non-ROTC students to take ROTC coursework. Currently, students can only get credit for up to 6 hrs of ROTC coursework. Kylie DeMeuse stated that having the extra courses she takes count toward a minor would be beneficial both in trying to get a job and getting into grad school. She thought that if the minor was a combination of the services it would give her a well rounded education of the military and would also be of interest to non-ROTC students. Right now, it is very rare for a non-ROTC student to take an ROTC course. Marni Boppart stated that in her experience even though she didn't get credit for all the ROTC coursework, it helped her GPA and was what she needed to become an officer.

Lynne Rudasill asked the Course and Program Approval Committee to look into what needs to be done to get the Military Education Minor going and report at the next MEC meeting.

On Budget, Lynne Rudasill stated that she had requested that the ROTC departments hold back 2% of their budget for possible rescission in FY11. Also, there will be MEC Funds to distribute to the departments this year. Last year they were unable to distribute any funds because of the cost of Carol Froeschl's retirement.

Lynne Rudasill reported that the contracts with the Air Force and Army had been approved by University Counsel and we are currently waiting for them to come back from the Military before they can be sent to the Provost's office for final approval. The change in both contracts related to going from commutation to issue in kind in regards to Military Stores. The Navy had no changes in their contract and therefore did not need any approvals.

CAPT Aitcheson presented the Tri-Service Calendar and updates.

Lynne Rudasill again stated that Jenny Klein was the new Military Education Council Secretary. CAPT Aitcheson stated that they had a new Navy Secretary, Amy Carr. LTC Kauffman stated that new instructor, CAPT Sillas, had just started and would be staying for three years. He also stated that CAPT Coats would be leaving in March and his replacement should be arriving over the summer.

Jenny Klein stated that according to new Senate Bill 51 no goods or services could be received without first placing an order for them. Also, any sole source item that is over the bid limit will have to go through a hearing before it can be purchased. Jason McCarley added that beginning in January, any contact with a vendor would have to be reported.

Lynne Rudasill requested input on what should be included in the future MEC website. She stated that they want to include links to the three services, include minutes and agendas of the MEC meeting, and contact information. She hopes to have it up and running by the end of the coming spring semester and she plans to create it.

Lynne requested that the MEC members send Jenny Klein, the MEC Secretary their schedules for spring semester in order to facilitate scheduling the MEC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Jack Dempsey mentioned that Beckwith Center is becoming a center for disabled veterans. He suggested that we have Dick Jaehne speak to the council about it.