

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Military Education Council

208 Armory Building
505 East Armory Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820



Military Education Council Meeting
February 13, 2012 1:30 pm
Naval Science Conference Room, 237 Armory Bldg.

Present: Alexander Scheeline, Chair, Jennifer Bateman, MEC Secretary, LTC Kurt Bauer, Marni Boppart, CAPT James Haugen, MAJ Seth Hible for LTC Robbins, Kristin Hoganson, Nick Larson, Michael Murphy, and Arne Pearlstein

Absent: Susan Brewer, Jack Dempsey, H. George Friedman, Chad Garland, Samuel Levon, and LTC Christopher Robbins

Observing: Daily Illini reporter Lauren Rohr and photographer

Call to Order

Prof. Scheeline called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. New member Michael Murphy was introduced to the rest of the Council. Prof. Scheeline moved to approve the Minutes from the December 1, 2011 meeting. They were approved with no objections.

Tri-Service Events

Mrs. Bateman presented the Army's budget request for the April 21st Honors Day ceremony. They have estimated the budget at \$1630 and have plans similar to events in the past. Prof. Scheeline requested approval of the budget, and it was approved with no objections.

LTC Bauer stated that the Spring Commissioning Ceremony will take place on May 14th and they will have over 50 commissionees, approximately 17 Air Force, 25 Army, and 14 Navy/Marine.

Prof. Scheeline requested that we set the date and time for the 2012 Veterans Day Ceremony to allow for adequate time to notify University Administration and advertise to the public. It was decided to hold the ceremony on Sunday, November 11th at 1:00 p.m. The three units were in agreement although there was some reluctance about requiring cadet participation on an additional weekend. Prof. Scheeline stated that he would contact the appropriate parties at the University with the date.

At December Commissioning, one cadet was commissioned. The ceremony went well.

Requirements for Teaching Staff

Prof. Hoganson led the discussion on making changes to the requirements for teaching staff. She explained that as a member of the faculty review committee, the extent of oversight and meaning of instructor qualification criteria have been unclear. In addition, the current procedures outlined in the 1997 document, "Procedures for nomination to teaching staffs of military departments," need clarification, especially the "potentially admissible as degree candidates to one of the departments of the Graduate College" language. Prof. Hoganson provided a document that was based on the 1997 document with suggestions and discussion points for updating. Both documents are on file in the MEC office.

The first point was conducting interviews with the nominees. Prof. Scheeline explained that the military does a more thorough screening for the commanding officer (CO)/professor position than the lower level officers. He felt that they should try to do some kind of interview with the COs. Prof. Boppart felt that if they were to do interviews, they should interview the O-2 and O-3 level officers. The military is currently doing a good job of screening and providing excellent COs.

LTC Bauer and CAPT Haugen both felt it was unnecessary to interview the COs and reminded the council that the COs prescreen other nominations before sending them on to the committee. They would not recommend a nominee that they feel is not qualified to do the job. They also noted that neither of them was interviewed by the MEC for their positions. Prof. Hoganson suggested that instead of conducting interviews, to require the Department Head evaluation include more specifics about why the candidate would be an outstanding teacher.

Prof. Scheeline felt that they may be able to gauge more about the candidates teaching ability from a written statement about their teaching experience than from an interview. This would also be more convenient for all parties. Prof. Pearlstein asked if the officers all have training experience. CAPT Haugen said all of his did, LTC Bauer said that his did not.

The next discussion point was the requirement for O-2 and O-3 level nominees to be potentially admissible to a graduate program. CAPT Haugen said that all of his officers are in a graduate program or have a graduate degree. LTC Bauer explained that in the Air Force, officers would be expected to have a Masters by the time they got to Major boards. He currently has one officer with a graduate degree and another in a graduate program.

Prof. Boppart expressed a problem with the word, 'potentially.' Prof. Pearlstein suggested that a specific program, identified by the candidate, be requested to give an informal reading on admissibility. Prof. Hoganson mentioned that there have been situations with time crunch in the past, and this would add to approval time. Prof. Scheeline felt that an evaluation policy was a manageable idea, and that the review could be waived in time crunch situations.

Prof. Boppart noted that candidates are not required to and may not go into a graduate program. CAPT Haugen suggested they keep the current procedure and request further information and route to graduate programs only if necessary. He feels that changing it will take away flexibility. They could list possible departments in the nomination packet.

This issue was noted to be especially important in the consideration of the minor. Prof. Boppart felt that the Educational Policy Committee would not allow instructors without a master's degree to teach courses for a minor, and suggested taking out the O-2 and O-3 graduate program requirement and for the minor state those courses would be instructed by COs. But, it was noted that the instructors need to be able to teach any of the classes.

Prof. Scheeline felt it was important to show that MEC procedures require that instructors have credentials at least as strong as our typical graduate instructors. Prof. Pearlstein stated that a degree from *any* graduate program would not necessarily make an instructor qualified to teach a military course for a minor. Prof. Hoganson stated that if they were moving toward the minor, the requirements for instructors need to be clear.

Prof. Pearlstein felt that if the candidates are going to come to the University with intentions of doing their graduate work here, they would make sure in advance that they meet those requirements. LTC Bauer and CAPT Haugen stated that the instructors may not do their graduate work at the U of I even while serving here. Sometimes they do it at another local school or online.

Prof. Boppart proposed two separate paragraphs, one with requirements for the O-2 and O-3 level and one with O-4 and O-5 level. Prof. Scheeline agreed with this. Prof. Hoganson stated they should require more explicit discussion of candidate suitability and information about how the candidates compare from the Department Heads.

Prof. Scheeline asked that the subcommittee rewrite the document and circulate to the rest of the Council prior to the next meeting. Voting on the document will be an agenda item at the next meeting. If approved, the recommended changes will be sent to the Provost for approval.

Minor

Prof. Scheeline explained that Prof. Friedman had been working on the minor. He had been unable to get in touch with him prior to the meeting, and since Prof. Friedman was absent today, discussion could not proceed. He also complimented the article in the Daily Illini on February 8 about the minor that was written by Lauren Rohr, who was observing the meeting.

CAPT Haugen asked if there had been much interest expressed in the minor. Nick Larson stated that he had several friends who would be interested. Prof. Scheeline stated that they needed to decide who the minor would be geared toward, cadets or non-ROTC students. CAPT Haugen said that his staff felt that few of their engineering students would be interested adding the minor to their course load. And, he thought they should focus the minor on a broader audience to include both ROTC and non-ROTC students.

Prof. Pearlstein asked if the engineering students wouldn't be interested because they would be required to take harder electives. He felt that the minor should be sold to the ROTC students as a way to enhance their education. Prof. Scheeline stated that he would try to get in touch with Prof. Friedman and structure the minor for both groups.

Prof. Hoganson mentioned that she had observed an Air Force course when a question on intelligence directed the discussion toward an Air Force career in intelligence. CAPT Haugen agreed that there is a military focus in the classes. Prof. Scheeline felt that in his observation of a navigation class he had a different perspective than would the typical ROTC midshipman.

New Business

Prof. Scheeline stated that the interviews for the Viola Koenigsberg award would be taking place the following day. Also, he had released some MEC funds to the three departments for equipment purchase and updates. There are more funds to be released in the future, but he is holding on to them at this time at the recommendation of the Provost, in case of rescission.

Air Force Briefing

LTC Bauer gave a briefing on the Air Force ROTC, a copy of which is on file in the MEC office.

Adjourn

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