

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Military Education Council

208 Armory Building  
505 East Armory Avenue  
Champaign, IL 61820



Military Education Council Meeting  
February 7, 2013 9:30 am  
Naval Science Conference Room, 237 Armory Bldg.

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

**Call to Order**

Prof. Scheeline called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. The minutes from the November 29, 2012 meeting were approved without change by voice vote.

**Fall Commissioning**

LTC Stetson reported that the Fall Commissioning was successful. The Air Force was provided the guest speaker. LTC Stetson will circulate the After Action Review.

**New Air Force CO**

LTC Bauer's replacement, LTC Shane Sullivan, has been approved. He is currently at Buckley Air Force Base in Colorado and has a background in Space. He will be arriving in mid- July.

Prof. Scheeline also mentioned that several new nominations for Navy staff are currently being processed and they are all strong candidates. Approvals had been rapidly received from a majority of the Faculty Review Committee, but not from all members. Prof. Scheeline will endeavor to determine if a slower timetable or more rapid response will be best for obtaining input from all subcommittee members.

**Viola Koenigsberg Award**

Prof. Scheeline reported that Viola Koenigsberg Outstanding Female Award interviews were conducted earlier this week. All three candidates were outstanding. Army Cadet Kelly McDowell was chosen to receive the award, which will be given at the Tri-Service Honors Day.

**Upcoming Events**

On February 12<sup>th</sup> the ROTC Color Guard and Commanding Officers will participate in the Krannert performance of the Scots Guards and Black Watch. Tickets are on sale.

February 22<sup>nd</sup> a 5K run with obstacles will be held at the arboretum as a fundraiser for the wounded warrior project. The Air Force ROTC affiliated Arnold Air Society was encouraged to do an event for the project; other ROTC cadets are also participating. Prof. Boppart offered to mention this to her exercise class and thought there would be students who would participate.

Sean Musil noted the cash bash gala that is being held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> by Keller Williams. It is a fundraiser for the Center for Wounded Veterans. He will forward information to the Council.

The Tri-Service Honors Day will be on April 13<sup>th</sup> in Foellinger Hall. Swords and various other awards will be presented to outstanding cadets and midshipmen. Royal Mortenson, the director of the Illinois Fire Service Institute, will be the guest speaker.

Spring Commissioning will take place on May 13<sup>th</sup> in Foellinger Hall. Thirty six cadets and midshipmen will commission.

### **State Tuition Waiver Test**

The process for awarding state tuition waivers to ROTC students is being audited. The auditors have identified non-compliance with the portion of the law that requires an examination be taken annually by the applicants. Prof. Scheeline read the portion of the law to the council (105 ILCS 5/30-16.6). The annual examination must be prescribed by the Presidents of the universities, public and private, that host ROTC contingents across the state.

As this examination does not exist, our departments have been using their own specifications to determine merit and award the waivers. We are typically approached by auditors annually regarding this, and each year we have explained our internal procedures. However, this year they are not accepting this response.

Prof. Scheeline suggested that since every ROTC student already must take a PT test, we attempt to make this the required examination. The law does not state that the award must be based only on the results of the examination, just that it must be taken. He felt that he should make this recommendation to President Easter to then recommend to the other Presidents.

There were differing opinions about this on the council. Some felt that we should explain why we cannot comply with the law (not having an examination to give) and be done with it. Others felt that if we did not make a suggestion of an examination, one would end up being provided from the top that may be meaningless or require a large amount of work on the part of the department. It was suggested that we should be cautious about trying to create a work-around that may not be in the original intent of the law.

Jack Dempsey thought that this probably stems from the legislative scholarships being terminated and other state waivers being under scrutiny. He felt that because of this, the auditors are taking a closer look at every waiver the state provides and it would be in our best interest to agree on a solution with our counterpart at UIC and then present it to President Easter to recommend to the other Presidents. Prof. Scheeline will get in touch with UIC and work to resolve this.

**Military Minor**

Prof. Sandretto explained that one can only be proposed by a degree granting department and as our ROTC departments do not grant degrees, we would need to find a department to sponsor the minor. He discussed possibilities with several departments in the College of Business. While they would not oppose the minor, they were not willing to host it.

Sean Musil thought that Political Science would be the appropriate department to propose the minor. In Engineering, Prof. Pearlstein felt that Aerospace may be a logical home, but was unsure if the department head would be in favor. He thought the Dean of Engineering may be receptive and could perhaps help to find a department. Prof. Scheeline and Prof. Pearlstein will get in touch with some possible departments to determine their interest. MEC would do the bulk of the paperwork to develop the minor. The proposing department would only have to do revisions and sign off.

Unrelated to the minor, LTC Stetson mentioned that UIC is currently looking at the number of ROTC credits being accepted in different departments and there may be some spill-over here. Prof. Scheeline said that from his discussions with Karen Carney, he felt that LAS, at least, would not be increasing the number of ROTC credits allowed.

**Briefing**

LTC Stetson gave a briefing on the Army ROTC program.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.