

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, 2014 1:30pm
Air Force Class Room, 325 Armory Bldg.

Present: Alexander Scheeline (Chair), Amy Carr (NROTC Secretary), Thomas Anastasio, Marni Boppart, Joe Brown, CAPT J. D. Haugen, Sean Musil, Arne Pearlstein, Dmitry Ramirez, Michael Sandretto, LTC Eric Stetson, and LTC Shane Sullivan.

Absent: Chuan Huang, Janeen Johnson, John Randolph and Jennifer Bateman

Call to Order

Prof. Scheeline called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Minutes of the October 30, 2013 meeting were approved by voice vote with no changes.

After Action Reports

Facilities Coordination/Armory: In Mrs. Bateman's absence, Prof. Scheeline reported on the status of the Armory Building Manager position. After logging hours spent performing tasks related to the Building Manager position, it was determined that Mrs. Bateman could no longer continue to assume these duties without significantly impacting the time spent on MEC related duties. The new Armory Building POC is now Ginger Mohr from the Center for Teaching Excellence.

Naval Ball: This event took place November 1st at 5:00 p.m. at the Hawthorn Suites in Champaign. CAPT Haugen reported that he was overall pleased with the Naval Ball. Professor Lynn was the guest speaker and the Hawthorn Suites provided a good meal with improved customer service over last year.

Center for Wounded Veterans groundbreaking: This event took place on November 8th at 11:00 a.m. at 908 W. Nevada Street and had a great turnout. Many veterans attended, as well as Professor Scheeline and the ROTC Commanding Officers from each service. There were several VIPs including but not limited to state government representatives, college affiliates and over 150 contributors. LTC Stetson mentioned that having the Center on campus provides the cadets and midshipmen with increased opportunities for community service work/projects. LTC Sullivan added that proceeds from the Mom's Day Run on April 5th will be donated to the Center.

Veteran's Day: This even took place November 10th at 1:00 p.m. in the Armory. CAPT Haugen reported that he was pleased with the ceremony. He was glad to see that Chancellor Wise was able to attend for the first time in recent history. He did express some concern that in spite of

increased efforts to publicize this event, the turnout, although better than previous years, was not greater. He added that moving the reception to Army spaces, vice having it in the corridor, facilitated a good outlet for conversation and mingling. LTC Stetson recommended that the cadets and midshipmen could arrange the seats differently next time to promote socializing. CAPT Haugen mentioned the option of moving the event back to Veteran's Day vice the Sunday closest to Veteran's Day. The concern is the conflict that this creates with the cadets and midshipmen as well as administrative VIPs on campus that have busy schedules during the work week. In support of that suggestion, LTC Stetson also recommended having the observance at noon on 11/11 in Foellinger Hall. Conflicts may still exist but perhaps less so. Prof. Scheeline suggested that Mrs. Bateman research the availability of Foellinger during the Fall semester and then move the discussion forward from there.

Fall Commissioning: This event was held December 23rd at 1:00 p.m. in 101 Armory. Prof. Scheeline reported that it was a small, low-key event that seemed to go smoothly.

Cross-Town Agreement, Lakeview College: Details are being worked out with regard to the cross-town agreement with Lakeview College. Capt Scheele and Prof. Scheeline met with University associate council Roopali Malhotra to discuss these issues. The situation should be resolution by the next MEC meeting.

Upcoming Events

Armory 100 Year Anniversary: LTC Stetson reported that the 100 year celebration will take place in concert with homecoming. He suggested arranging an event that might be similar to the Army's Hall of Fame event that was held on the Armory track. He hopes to address the general lack of knowledge on campus about the history of the building and its relationship to the University of Illinois. The event could also incorporate the raising of the flag on the newly restored flagpole.

LTC Stetson suggested a Tri-Service alumni barbeque. He mentioned that AROTC was able to recoup the cost of the Hall of Fame event via unsolicited alumni donations. Prof. Scheeline mentioned that there are MEC funding sources that he is willing to utilize to subsidize an event.

LTC Stetson suggested setting up a website that would allow visitors/alumni to register for the event and/or buy tickets. This would help provide a headcount needed for catering. Mr. Sandretto indicated that they would need to make sure they are following University guidelines for selling tickets to a campus event. It was also suggested to try to involve DIA since they heavily utilize the track and could potentially be an additional source of funding should they choose to participate.

Army Dining-Out: This event is scheduled for 4 April at the Round Barn Center. All are invited. Formal invitations will be distributed.

Awards Day: LTC Stetson reported that Steve Ostwinkle is the POC for this event and has sent out requests for information to each unit. This can be a challenging event to coordinate, but he anticipates that it will run smoothly as it has in previous years.

Koenigsberg Award Interviews: Nomination packages are due to Mrs. Bateman no later than Friday 14 February. Interviews will soon be scheduled. Prof. Scheeline expects the candidates to be very competitive.

Spring Commissioning: LTC Sullivan reported that planning is proceeding. Foellingre Hall has been confirmed as the location. A high-profile speaker with national visibility was invited, but she was unable to attend. The invitation is now being tendered to General William M. Fraser, Commander of U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, IL.

Class Attendance: Prof. Scheeline mentioned that, as always, attendance at classes is desirable for MEC members to get calibrated on cadet and midshipman maturity and ROTC teaching approaches.

Course for Veterans: Dr. Nicholas Osborne was not in attendance but Prof. Scheeline reported that a course designed to help Veterans transition to the University and the civilian world will not target the general student population. The course outline is available through Prof. Scheeline should anyone wish to review it.

Action Items

Proposed General Education Course: This course has been under development since summer, 2013, to aid students in understanding the U.S. military. The course outline and supporting documents were presented for review. The goal is to have the course available by Spring 2015. After review of the course proposal documents, the Council voted to approve the course proposal pending minor editing.

Briefing

Due to the late hour, LTC Stetson did not deliver his briefing on the overall status of ROTC; this has been deferred to the April meeting. He presented some information about the Army's plan to reduce the number of ROTC units across the country. Training Command had previously identified units that were in danger of being closed. However, they had not clearly defined criteria to be used to identify underperforming units. They now have. Those with shortcomings will be identified in June. They will be given a one year probation period to course correct. After that, if discrepancies have not been addressed, the unit will move to a two-year shut down period. LTC Stetson believes that Illinois' cadre should be safe. AROTC has notified University administration that the Secretary of the Army may be contacting them regarding this evaluation.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 p.m.