

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Military Education Council

208 Armory Building  
505 East Armory Avenue  
Champaign, IL 61820



Military Education Council Meeting  
March 14, 2011  
1:30 p.m. -113 Armory- Military Science Host

Present: Lynne Rudasill, LTC Christopher Robbins, Kristin Hoganson, LTC Anthony Kauffman, Matthew Reoch, CAPT Kent Aitcheson, George Friedman, & Bao Bui

The meeting was called to order by Lynne Rudasill at 1:35 p.m. The Minutes from the October 18, 2010 and the December 9, 2010 meetings were approved.

LTC Robbins stated that everything was on track for the April 9<sup>th</sup> honors day. There are approximately 40 organizations that give out awards and they continue to look for more award opportunities out there for the future. He said that they were trying to get President Hogan to attend. Also, that Robert Easter had been contacted but would not be able to make honor's day. They will send him an invitation to commissioning.

LTC Kauffman presented the budget for the Spring Commissioning Ceremony. It will be held on May 16, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. in Foellinger Auditorium. There will be approximately 40 cadets commissioned: eleven from the Air Force, seven from the Army, and twenty one from the Navy and Marines. The estimated budget is \$1085.00, which is 5% higher than the previous year because of the increased number of cadets. Each unit will have their own commissioning prior to the ceremony. Lynne Rudasill stated that the MEC would not provide refreshments for any department specific events prior to the ceremony-they will only fund tri-service events. In previous years, it had been decided to forgo refreshments after commissioning because the cadets and their families usually left right after for lunch. LTC Kauffman also stated that there are other events going on in Foellinger that day, so they can only be in the area for a limited time. George Friedman moved to approve the budget and LTC Robbins seconded it.

LTC Robbins introduced the idea of having a standard gift from the MEC to give out to guest speakers at Tri-service ceremonies. The idea was well-received and Prof. Rudasill suggested they vote on it at a later time.

LTC Kauffman gave a report on the Air Force. He explained that students can take the first two years of AFROTC coursework and summer field training without enlisting in the Air Force. At the start of their junior year they would then sign contract paperwork if they intend to commission. Or, if a cadet takes a scholarship at any point during their coursework, they would sign a contract to enlist at that time.

He also stated that the Air Force now has the option for commissioned officers to go to the reserves or National Guard instead of active duty. This is because the Air Force is currently fully staffed. They also limit the number of cadets who can go to field training- they are selected based on things like rank, gpa, fitness scores, and major.

The AFROTC department currently has approximately 95 cadets. They will have five cadets commissioned in August and one in December. There are currently 20 juniors who should be commissioned sometime next year.

There was much discussion about the Military Education Minor. George Friedman began by explaining the current status of the research by the Course and Program Approval Committee. He said that in the past the minor was rejected because there was no academic department sponsoring the minor. He has talked with Abbas Aminmansour, the Chair of the Senate Education Policy Committee, and Kristi Kuntz of the Provost's Office. He said that in their discussion, he thought that he had convinced them that this minor would not need a separate department to host it, because Military Science, Naval Science, and Air Force Aerospace Studies are all academic departments. They also requested that he research the precedent of ROTC minors at other Big 10 Universities. Prof. Friedman provided a report of his research to the council. In summary, Ohio State, Purdue, and Penn State offer minors in ROTC subjects. In his most recent correspondence with Ms. Kuntz, Prof. Friedman said she again mentioned finding an academic unit to host the minor, so he is unsure about where that issue stands at the current time.

LTC Robbins stated that he thought Penn State would be the best example for them to follow when developing this minor. He talked about the idea of cross-listed or dual-enrollment courses being included in the minor. Prof. Friedman stated that the minor could include both ROTC and non-ROTC students and would not necessarily be for credit toward graduation.

Kristin Hoganson stated several reservations with the development of the minor. First, faculty in other departments on campus are under more scrutiny than the faculty in the ROTC departments. Would the ROTC faculty be qualified or allowed to teach course work to non-ROTC students? Second, since a minor requires both upper and lower level coursework, would non-ROTC students be able to take this minor with upper level ROTC courses? Also, would this minor only draw students with non-technical majors who want the minor to enhance their record, when the ROTC programs would prefer technical majors? Are the faculty of the ROTC departments able to take on the advising of all the students who take this minor?

LTC Robbins talked about the possibility of including some of the ROTC courses in the Leadership Minor that is still being worked on by another unit on campus. The ROTC courses give students actual experience being leaders as opposed to just learning about it in theory.

CAPT Aitcheson said that anyone would be allowed to take the minor without any kind of military commitment. LTC Robbins thought that if it were a Military Education minor, 99% of the students would be ROTC. Prof. Friedman said that there would be a small number of students interested in this kind of minor and the ROTC faculty would not have a problem advising them.

Prof. Friedman also said that the ROTC faculty are vetted their positions through a University Process, so they should be able to teach these courses. Prof. Rudasill said that the ROTC faculty are considered visiting professors. Prof. Hoganson voiced concerns about the Senate requiring a tenured unit to host a minor. She also said that when approving faculty for ROTC units she had in mind that their job would be to prepare students for the military. She said she would have different standards if their job would also include teaching courses for credit to non-ROTC students as well as ROTC students.

Prof. Hoganson also asked if the ROTC faculty would be prepared to do outcomes assessments that require documentation of what the students have learned. LTC Robbins explained that they already do something similar to this through evaluations, assessments, and rankings. He thought that outcomes assessments would not be a problem for them, that they may just have to format the information differently for the University.

Prof. Friedman wanted to focus on the procedures required to establish a minor and Prof. Hoganson wanted to figure out what is wanted in a minor, because this might affect the procedures required. Prof. Friedman explained that previous attempts at the minor were rejected because of procedures. Prof. Rudasill thought that it would be best to first find out if a minor is something that can be done, then decide what they want in the minor, and decide if they would be willing to make it happen. Prof. Friedman is planning to follow up with Ms. Kuntz on the issue of an academic host. Prof. Hoganson thought it would be useful to find out more about the ROTC minors at the other schools.

On early registration, Lynne Rudasill said that she had contacted David Olsen, Student Senate chair, who told her that he had heard nothing about early registration for ROTC students. Already 1/3 of students register early so the MEC will need to make a good case in order for the ROTC students to be allowed to register early. She said they will need to include cause and effect information along with numbers of students affected by this. Prof. Hoganson said that the quality of the students will make a difference. And, LTC Robbins stated that sometimes student are unable to get into required courses because their times conflict with ROTC courses. Prof. Rudasill asked the council to work on gathering this information for the next meeting.

CAPT Aitcheson gave a report on the Winter Commissioning Ceremony. He said that four personnel were commissioned and approximately 78 family and friends attended the ceremony. They came in under the proposed budget of \$318.89 and actually spent \$301.56.

On budget, Jenny Klein stated that the MEC was able to give \$5600 to each department this fiscal year.

Lynne Rudasill said the MEC website was coming along well. It will cost \$110 a year to be on the server, which is a reasonable fee. She requested images be provided to her to be included on the website.

She also stated that the Program Evaluation Committee met on the 11<sup>th</sup> to interview the 3 nominees for the Viola Koenigsberg Tri-Service Outstanding Female Award. This award will be given at the Honors Day Ceremony on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Matthew Reoch, Air Force ROTC student representative to the MEC was introduced.

Prof. Rudasill presented letters of appreciation for those who made the "Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students Fall 2010" list. They were: CAPT Anthony Coats, CAPT Michael Gioia, and LTC Anthony Kauffman from Air Force Aerospace Studies; MAJ Jay Luckritz and COL Donald Stenzel from Military Science; and CAPT Kent Aitcheson, LT Daniel Bradley, CAPT Kimberly Byrd, LT Daniel Emmert, and LT William Russel from Naval Science.

Prof. Hoganson mentioned that if the MEC had any additional money in the budget, it could be used to fund someone to teach Military History.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:50 p.m.