

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Military Education Council

208 Armory Building
505 East Armory Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820



Military Education Council Meeting

April 18, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.

Air Force Aerospace Studies Host- Room 325 Armory Bldg

Present: Lynne Rudasill, Chair, George Friedman, Jack Dempsey, LTC Anthony Kauffman, CAPT Kent Aitcheson, Alex Scheeline, Jason McCarley, & LTC Christopher Robbins

The meeting was called to order by Lynne Rudasill at 10:00 a.m. With the change of Mr./Ms. to Prof., the March 14, 2011 Minutes were approved.

On Honors Day, LTC Robbins reported that all went very well. He was unable to provide information on the amount of money spent because the staff member compiling it was out of the office. He said that the ceremony lasted approximately one hour. The guest speaker was Brigadier General (Retired) Jack H. Kotter, an US Army Reserve Ambassador to Illinois and a 1964 U of I alumnus. There was some discussion about each branch's singing at the ceremony.

LTC Robbins then gave a report on the Military Science Department. He passed around an example card used to evaluate cadets on 16 leadership dimensions at different points throughout the year. The cadets also complete self-assessments at these times.

He said that they had just returned from four days of training at Camp Atterbury, also attended by cadres from Eastern Illinois and Illinois State Universities. This was a mini-version of the camp that the cadets will attend this coming summer. There, each cadet will typically be the only U of I cadet in each group.

LTC Robbins went over a handout he provided about the department. The Army ROTC program is broken into 8 brigades. JROTC programs are within the same brigades. He said that there has been discussion of starting a JROTC program in the Champaign area; it is a program for students to learn discipline and charity, although the students do not typically move on to ROTC.

He talked about the newest training area AROTC has started to use in Middle Fork. Use will likely increase because of its location close to the University.

MAJ Luckritz and MAJ Porter will be leaving the University this summer. They will definitely be filling one of their positions, but LTC Robbins was unsure if both would be filled. The Army National Guard usually provides an instructor for the U of I. Also, the military often uses COMTek, which contracts people in the guard, reserves, or retirees to fill University openings. All of these people are vetted by the same procedures that are used for all the Armed Forces Faculty. Prof. Friedman asked if using contractors cost the military more than using active duty personnel. LTC Robbins explained that the Army is only allowed to have so many officers at a time, and often there are more places where they need officers than people available. This is why they turned to using COMTek to fill some University openings.

On the demographics of the current class, LTC Robbins pointed out that the MS 1's had above average GPA's. Almost half of the Army ROTC cadets are from the Chicago area and they have 11 from out of state. They will be commissioning 10 this year, 22 next year and 22-25 in the following 3 years. He said that his job is to try to set the next person in his position up for success. They used to try to maximize initial class size, but now class size is more targeted. He said that in the past it had been a problem to be given a mission of a certain number of commissions, but not to be given the 4 year lead time required to meet the goal. Now they have a much better dialog with command regarding their mission.

Jack Dempsey asked if LTC Robbins had any figures on retention in the Army after graduation. LTC Robbins explained that commissioned cadets have an eight year commitment with the Army; this is a combination of active duty and reserves. Those on scholarship are required to do four years active duty. He didn't have any numbers on retention, but he and CAPT Aitcheson stated that there have been historically high retention rates in the military since 9/11.

LTC Robbins talked about some of the other events in which AROTC participates. They will have Fall Field Training in September. Also they will send 2-3 teams to Camp Marseilles for the Ranger Challenge. Last year they sent the U of I's first all female team to Ranger Challenge; they came in 2nd. They also participate in a Ruck March, although it is more of a Ruck Run in New Mexico. At LDAC, summer training, the U of I ranks in the top 15% of schools. They will be sending approximately 30 cadets to LDAC this year.

George Friedman reported on his research of the Military Education Minor. He referred to several documents that were provided to the council, most of these were from the last attempt

at starting a minor. There was a letter dated March 8, 2001 addressed to Susan Lamb listing the credit for ROTC courses allowed by each college. Prof. Friedman said that he thought most of these numbers would still be accurate. He noted that Engineering is listed with no limit, although they only allow six hours of elective courses. The last attempt at the Minor was in 2001-2002 and the information about the last attempt will need to be taken into account if a new proposal is going to be made.

The other documents provided to the council were a letter to the MEC from then member John Lynn critiquing the 01-02 proposal; a letter to the MEC from Russ Jamison listing the reasons for the minor proposal being declined; a letter from Susan Lamb stating that the minor proposal was rejected; the March 2001 Minor in Military Studies proposal; and lastly the current guidelines from the University Senate for proposing a minor. Prof. Friedman stated that if we decide to proceed with proposal of minor, we will need to follow these guidelines. He noted that a minor would have to be approximately 18 hours and at least 6 hours must be advanced level.

Alex Scheeline reported that he had done some research on the websites of Ohio State, Penn State, and Purdue of their Military Minors. Prof. Friedman stated that the minors at these schools are weak compared to what the University of Illinois would require. Prof. Scheeline noted that at Ohio State the minor is 24 hours of all Military Science coursework; at Penn State courses from other University departments like History and Political Science are included in their minor. He said that if they were to propose a minor here it would require that both the ROTC coursework and other University coursework be included in order for it to be approved.

Lynne Rudasill stated that if the minor would include coursework from other departments we would need to approach the departments to determine if they would accept of the ROTC students and would keep room in the courses for them.

LTC Robbins asked if Engineering students could have a minor. Prof. Friedman explained that because Engineering students only have 6 hours of free electives they often have minors within Engineering, but not often outside of the college.

Prof. Scheeline explained that in the College of LAS students are not allowed to “double dip” or use a course for more than one requirement. A student would have to apply in advance for a minor and be accepted in order to get the minor. They do not automatically get a minor just because they have taken all the coursework required for it.

Prof. Rudasill asked how the cadets feel about the minor. CAPT Aitcheson said that if the minor would require many additional courses outside of the ROTC departments, he didn't think many cadets would be interested. He said that their current motivation is to commission after they complete the program, not to get a minor. Prof. Friedman stated that he thought that mostly ROTC students would enroll in the minor, with a small percentage of the rest of the student body enrolling in the minor. LTC Robbins mentioned that he could see how the minor could be useful to some non-ROTC students who would like to eventually work with the Military, like Political Science for example.

Prof. Rudasill asked if the Council should vote on whether to pursue the minor further. Prof. Scheeline made a motion for a subcommittee consisting of himself, Prof. Friedman, and LTC Robbins to compose a draft of a minor proposal to present to the Council in the Fall of 2011. At that time, the Council would vote on whether to pursue the minor. The motion was seconded by LTC Kauffman and passed. Prof. Friedman stated that one of the keys would be to find outside 300 level courses and approach those departments for cooperation.

On the subject of early registration, Lynne Rudasill stated that according to Student Senate President, David Olson, early registration for ROTC students has never been brought up or passed by the Student Senate. She said that if the cadets are interested in early registration they will need to provide numbers and documentation showing that they need to register early in order to get into required classes.

LTC Kauffman said that they had taken a short survey of the Air Force cadets asking if they had to push back commissioning because they were unable to get into classes that they needed; 80% responded no. Did they foresee a conflict with scheduling their courses? 80% responded yes. He said that the cadets make their commissioning happen on time by doing things like taking summer courses. CAPT Aitcheson said that because the cadets have to make arrangements to make their commissioning happen, it is difficult to compile this data. He said that in his department, training is diminished by 25% of the cadets being unable to make a training lab that is scheduled on Thursdays, NROTC offers a back-up course but the training is not nearly as effective as the standard course. Also, approximately 3 cadets a year don't make commissioning on time. Prof. Rudasill asked each department head to articulate these sorts of estimates in writing for her if they would like to proceed with asking for early registration.

In other business, a motion to create a standard guest speaker gift that the Military Education Council funds for tri-service events was passed. These events would consist of Veterans Day, Honors Day, and the Commissioning Ceremonies. Each of these events does not always have a guest speaker, so there would be a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 gifts each year.

Prof. Rudasill reported that the website is ready for roll out. Server space is available and the MEC Secretary, Jenny Klein, has been trained so that she can maintain the site. Items on the website include: links to the services, links to the minutes and agendas of the MEC meetings, an About MEC section, contact information, committee reports, and information about scholarships and awards.

Prof. Rudasill also explained that one of the members of the Faculty Review Committee is currently out of the country. She asked if they should have someone else on the council take care of this while she is gone or if they should just have the other two committee members approve dossiers. Jason McCarley volunteered to fill in on the Faculty Review Committee for the rest of the school year.

Prof. Rudasill also made the announcements that CAPT James D. Haugen will be the new Naval Science department head, and LTC Kurt P. Bauer will be the new Air Force Aerospace Studies department head. She presented appreciation plaques to CAPT Aitcheson and LTC Kauffman who are leaving at the end of the term. She also stated that Alex Scheeline has been approved to be the next Military Education Council Chair.

On budget, Jenny Klein stated that the 2% rescission funds are set aside and we expect them to be called for soon. Also, she explained that she had adjusted the salary budgets for each of the department secretaries so that they are appropriately funded. The additional funds that were budgeted were moved to the MEC account to be used for secretarial salary increases in the future. Prof. Rudasill said that Cynthia Williams is now reporting to Ms. Klein instead of the Military Science Department. Meetings are being held between the Army, Air Force, and Cynthia to make sure the storeroom area runs smoothly.

Prof. Rudasill provided a summary of the year's business. MEC Secretary Carol Froeschl retired and was replaced this year by Jenny Klein. Janet Compton, stores supervisor also retired. Both Naval Science and Air Force Aerospace Studies hired new department secretaries. The MEC webpage has been started. Prof. Rudasill will be in place as MEC Chair until August 15th and Prof. Scheeline will take over as chair on August 16th.

LTC Kauffman reminded the department heads that the tri-service photo will be taken the morning of Thursday the 21st. He said the cost for the photo to be taken and framed prints should be between \$1100 and \$1200.

CAPT Aitcheson reminded the council of his retirement ceremony on the 28th and that they are all invited.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.