

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, 2012 2:30 p.m.
Naval Science Conference Room, 237 Armory Bldg.

Present: Alexander Scheeline, Chair, Jennifer Bateman, Secretary, LTC Kurt Bauer, Marni Boppart, CAPT James Haugen, Kristin Hoganson, H. George Friedman, Nick Larson, Michael Murphy, Arne Pearlstein, and LTC Christopher Robbins
Absent: Susan Brewer, Jack Dempsey, Chad Garland, and Samuel Levon

Call to Order

Prof. Scheeline called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m. He moved to approve the Minutes from the February 13, 2012 meeting, and they were approved with no objections.

Requirements for Teaching Staff

Prof. Scheeline referenced the proposed document and asked if there were questions or objections to it. Prof. Friedman asked if there was a prior document other than the “1971 Proposal to Establish a Military Education Council.” The “1997 Procedures for nominations to teaching staffs of military departments” was distributed to the council to review.

LTC Robbins suggested, in the area designating the requirements, the wording be changed from the officer levels to the job titles. He said that an O-4 level officer in an assistant professor role should not be required to have a graduate degree.

It was mentioned that the wording regarding the officer levels was the same as the 1997 document aside from the addition of ‘or the civilian equivalent’ to cover contractors. LTC Robbins explained to council that the contractors either come from the National Guard or are retired from the military and no longer wear military uniforms. He said it would be possible to get a contractor in at an O-4 level for an assistant professor position. Prof. Pearlstein agreed that the job titles should be used instead of military rank.

Prof. Boppart asked why ‘regionally accredited’ was specified for the institution where the graduate degree could come from. Prof. Pearlstein explained that institutions that are nationally accredited are frequently “diploma mills,” whereas regionally accredited institutions are the traditional brick and mortar institutions. Also, credits from nationally-accredited institutions don’t usually transfer to regionally-accredited institutions.

CAPT Haugen stated that the requirement for a resume was redundant since the summary of military of experience is also required. Prof. Scheeline and Prof. Pearlstein stated that a resume or CV is required by the University and that it is the format necessary for the Provost's approval. Prof. Pearlstein suggested only requiring the resume once the candidate was approved by the MEC, but Prof. Scheeline explained that typically the process moves quickly once the nomination is supported by MEC, so it is best to have everything required up front. LTC Robbins asked if the officer record brief would work as the complete summary of military experience. It was agreed that it would.

The following changes to the proposed document were approved by the council with no objections: In paragraph 6, "Officers at the O-4 and O-5 levels (or the civilian equivalent) are expected to" was changed to "Department heads shall." In paragraph 7, "Candidates at the O-2 and O-3 levels (or the civilian equivalent)" was changed to "Successful assistant professor candidates," and "at the O-2 and O-3 levels (or the civilian equivalent)" was removed from the last sentence. The original and final proposed documents are available in the MEC office. The final proposal will be sent to the Provost for approval, together with the existing procedure for easy comparison.

Budget

The budget for the May 14, 2012 Commissioning was distributed to the council and was approved with no objections.

Prof. Scheeline explained to the council that in the past items such as event budgets have been brought to the MEC for approval, but the major spending done for the units was approved unilaterally by the Chair. He said that this situation made him uneasy and he thought that the council should either also approve these requests or officially agree to allow the Chair to approve them. He was unsure how long the current procedure has been in place, but Prof. Friedman said it has been this way the twelve years he's been on the council.

Prof. Pearlstein asked if these were DOD funds, and Prof. Scheeline explained that they were State funds. This is money budgeted into the MEC State account that is typically split equally among the three services, although there have been times when the money has been pooled for one shared project. He said that the ROTC programs bring in much more tuition money than what they get from the University.

The units had submitted requests in November and he had released \$5,000 to each service but had waited in case of a rescission to release the rest of the funds to be spent. LTC Robbins asked when the budget came out and Prof. Scheeline explained that the budget was available July 1, but that there have been rescissions in the budget in the past in January and perhaps as late as March. Prof. Pearlstein didn't think they should be as concerned about the possibility of rescission and Prof. Boppart felt that they could budget for the average rescission.

Prof. Murphy said that in other departments, the Department Head signs off on spending so the Chair approving spending would be the same. Prof. Pearlstein said that they could request the

Provost's approval of the current system. Prof. Friedman felt that it would be fine to discuss the purchases with the committee if the Chair would be more comfortable with that. Prof. Hoganson suggested that there be a budget subcommittee to approve these items. Prof. Pearlstein thought that it would not be a good idea to have the entire council discuss the purchases, so they should either have a budget subcommittee of three people or have the Chair approve. Prof. Scheeline said that the Department Heads could submit their requests to the subcommittee and they could approve them unless there was an issue that they felt the whole council should discuss. Prof. Boppart stated that she would like to see a budget outline at the meetings to show where the money is spent. Consensus was that budget should be approved by the Chair, but that the approved budget should be shared with the Committee and any specific controversial issues brought to the Committee's attention for discussion.

Tri-Service Events

Prof. Scheeline stated that the Awards Day is this coming Saturday April 21st. He will be presenting a few awards including the Viola Koenigsberg award and the swords to the top cadets. The event starts at 10:00 a.m. and the Navy Parade is at 1 PM. LTC Robbins said that the guest speaker will be Retired Col Mike McBride who is an alumnus of the University and will be returning to get his teaching degree.

LTC Bauer said that he has booked Lt. Gen. Robert R. Allardice as the guest speaker for commissioning. He explained that he had budgeted for lodging for the guest speaker, but Lt Gen. Allardice may fly himself in for the ceremony and lodging would not be required.

Minor

Prof. Scheeline stated that Prof. Friedman is stepping down as chair of the Program Evaluation Committee that is handling the minor and that Prof. Murphy has agreed to take the chair position on the committee. Prof. Friedman will pass along his records to Prof. Murphy at a separate time and the minor will be discussed again in the fall. He also announced that this is Prof. Friedman's last MEC meeting and that he had served on the council for twelve years.

Prof. Scheeline presented LTC Robbins a plaque from the MEC thanking him for his service. He will be retiring in August and his replacement LTC Stetson will arrive over the summer. LTC Robbins gave some remarks to the council.

New Business

Prof. Scheeline stated that he had been contacted by someone interested in restarting the student chapter of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) and was looking for a faculty advisor. He asked the council if they knew of anyone who may be interested. He stated that there was no listing of veteran faculty on campus. Prof. Friedman suggested contacting the local American Legions and VFW. He thought they may know if any of their members were active faculty.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.