

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Military Education Council

208 Armory Building  
505 East Armory Avenue  
Champaign, IL 61820



Military Education Council Meeting  
April 8, 2014 11:00 a.m.  
Naval Science Conference Room, 237B Armory Bldg.

Present: Alexander Scheeline (Chair), Jennifer Bateman (Secretary), Tom Anastasio, Joe Brown, CAPT Michelle Campbell, CAPT J.D. Haugen, Cadet Trisdon Miller, Sean Musil, Arne Pearlstein, Michael Sandretto, LTC Eric Stetson, Lt Col Shane Sullivan, and Tom Teper  
Absent: Marni Boppart, Chuan Huang, Janeen Johnson, and John Randolph,

**Call to Order**

Prof. Scheeline called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Minutes of the February 7, 2014 meeting were approved by voice vote with no changes.

**After Action Reports**

Unit Field Activities: The Air Force and Army detachments both took trips over spring break. Lt Col Sullivan reported that Air Force ROTC took 38 cadets to Florida's Space Coast. They toured Patrick Air Force Base, visited Cape Canaveral where they saw the roll-to-pad of an Atlas 5 rocket, and visited Kennedy Space Center. They intended to watch the launch of the rocket, but following a scrub, they instead went to the Kennedy Visitors Center. They were able to take this trip using MEC funds as the Air Force no longer funds such trips. Initially, the Air Force wanted the cadre to take leave for the trip, but negotiation allowed travel as a no cost TDY.

LTC Stetson reported that Army ROTC took 14 cadets to the Bataan Memorial Death March in White Sands, New Mexico. The 8 or 9 cadets that attended for the first time all completed the march. There were a couple older cadets who were unable to complete because of injuries. Marchers carry backpacks that are filled with 35-45 pounds of beans and rice which are donated at the end of the race. There was one survivor of the Bataan Death March in attendance. Wounded warriors, military groups like ROTC, and civilians all participate.

CAPT Haugen explained that the Navy/Marines don't do any spring break training because they have extensive summer training.

Army Dining Out: LTC Stetson thanked the MEC members who attended the Dining Out. He reported that rehearsal was a learning experience for the cadets.

Awards Day: Prof. Scheeline reported that a highlight of being MEC chair is getting to hand out the swords to the battalion commanders at the ceremony. He stated that there are several

organizations in the area that attend and give awards to the cadets. LTC Stetson asked that the other two services direct the award recipients to send thank you notes to the agencies and said that he would also send a thank you letter. LTC Stetson also stated that they plan to utilize Jenny in the MEC office more next year for planning and coordinating the event.

### **Upcoming Events**

Armory 100 year anniversary: LTC Stetson reported that the anniversary celebration is in the planning stages. An upcoming meeting is scheduled with Lynn Chaney from the Alumni Center. Likely dates include homecoming, although Veterans Day is another option. Prof. Scheeline added that he had spoken with Tanya Gallagher, the Dean of Applied Health Sciences, and she is interested in being involved. LTC Sullivan stated that SGT Aragon was available to assist with the planning.

Spring Commissioning: Lt Col Sullivan introduced CAPT Campbell who is the point of contact for the Commissioning Ceremony. CAPT Campbell explained that after their first two requests for guest speakers were unable to attend, they submitted a request to NASA to have COL Hopkins, the alumna astronaut who recently returned from space, to be the guest speaker. Thereafter, they learned that the University had also arranged to have him as the Commencement speaker, and they were able to have him speak at both ceremonies.

On Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. they are planning to take COL Hopkins on a tour that includes the Armory and Wounded Veteran Center. They are arranging a social event that afternoon at the Hawthorn where the cadets and midshipmen from the three services will be able to meet him. The next morning, he will be invited to the Air Force Commissioning Ceremony and then will speak at the Tri-Service Commissioning that follows.

Summer Commissioning: The Army and Air Force will each have one cadet commission this summer. They will get together to make a plan for the ceremony, if any.

Course for Veterans: Dean Osborn is creating a course for undergraduate veterans; copies of the syllabus were provided to the Council. Veteran status is a requirement to take the course.

Change of MEC Chair: Prof. Scheeline introduced Thomas Teper who will be taking over as MEC chair August 15<sup>th</sup>. Prof. Teper has twelve years of experience in the library, is familiar with budgets much larger than the MEC's, and buildings as old as the Armory.

Retirement of CAPT Haugen: CAPT Haugen will complete his assignment as Navy ROTC Commanding Officer and be replaced by CAPT Charles Moore in August. Prof. Scheeline presented CAPT Haugen with a plaque from the MEC. CAPT Haugen expressed how rewarding it was to train the next generation of officers at the end of his career and his gratitude to the MEC and University for their support to the program, both financial and otherwise.

Fall Events: Upcoming events include the POW/MIA vigil and Veterans Day. Details of the events have not yet been set.

**Old Business**

General Education Course: Prof. Scheeline received an acknowledgement email that the course had been received at the Provost's Office and forwarded to the General Education Committee. Prof. Anastasio added that he had reviewed the course before it was sent and felt it had a good chance of being approved.

Lakeview College Crosstown Agreement: This agreement has completed review with legal counsel and is currently with the Provost's Office.

**Briefing**

LTC Stetson gave a briefing on the Army ROTC department. The summer training program is undergoing major changes. It is changing its name from LDAC to CST (cadet summer training), expanding in length, and changing locations. It is moving from Ft Lewis to Ft Knox because of the closer proximity to the majority of cadets and it is also the home of the command. Army ROTC reducing the number of detachments. In June, 50 of the 273 detachments will be put on probation and, if unable to improve within a year, will be shut down. LTC Stetson said that UIUC meets no exceptional criteria and must commission 15 each year. They will commission 20 this year and 13 next year. He feels it is unlikely they will be put on probation. A copy of the complete briefing is available in the MEC office.

Prof. Pearlstein asked about the recruiting efforts for the department. LTC Stetson said that they send an email to all admitted students and set up in the Union when there are visitors' days. Prof. Pearlstein suggested contacting Stacey Kostell in Undergraduate Admissions about targeting students at rural Illinois schools. He stated that the University has difficulty recruiting from rural high schools and that it might be an area with above-average military interest.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.