

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Military Education Council

208 Armory Building
505 East Armory Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820



Military Education Council Meeting
September 11, 2012 11:00 am
Naval Science Conference Room, 237 Armory Bldg.

Present: Alexander Scheeline, Chair, Jennifer Bateman, Secretary, LTC Phil Bauer, Marni Boppart, Jack Dempsey, CAPT James Haugen, Nick Larson, Arne Pearlstein, John Randolph, Michael Sandretto, and LTC Eric Stetson

Absent: Susan Brewer, Sean Brokaw, and Janeen Johnson

Call to Order

Prof. Scheeline called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. Each of the members of the council introduced themselves. Then, Prof. Scheeline moved to approve the Minutes from the April 18, 2012 meeting, and they were approved with no objections.

MEC

Prof. Scheeline explained to the council the functions of the Military Education Council. First, they do the vetting of the ROTC teaching staff. He explained the approval process and noted the "Procedures for Nominations to Teaching Staffs of Military Departments," document that had been updated last semester and been approved by the Provost. It was requested to add a notation on the document stating when the Provost had approved it. [Approval date: 5/31/2012]

The council also provides support to the ROTC departments in the equipment and facility needs. Prof. Scheeline referenced the report of the FY12 expenditures provided. He explained that the services receive funding from DOD for certain things and the MEC helps to cover other needs. The three department heads will be providing Prof. Scheeline with information about their DOD funding, that he may use to make future spending decisions. The MEC also supports one staff member for each service and the Tri-Service events. Finally, the MEC serves as next step in the reporting line for the ROTC departments on the University side while they also report up to DOD. When there are conflicts between these areas the MEC is the body that will work to resolve them.

The current cadet enrollments for the three ROTC detachments are Navy 81, Air Force 88, and Army 94. Prof. Scheeline explained that the scholarship money that comes from the ROTC programs is a large source of money for the University so the support they receive from the University is reasonable.

Prof. Boppart had a few questions regarding the FY12 expenditures. She asked the total amount available to spend. Mrs. Bateman explained that there was \$16,000 left at the end of FY12 that

carried over. Approximately \$6,000 of it had been set aside for the Navy to spend but the transactions did not go through by the end of the year, and the additional \$10,000 was set aside to cover possible salary increases or rescission. Also, she asked where expenses for dining ins and Veterans Day were listed. The dining ins are paid for by the students and the expenses for Veterans Day were included in the 'other' section because they were so low. There was some discussion regarding setting aside funds in case of rescission.

ROTC classes

Prof. Scheeline encouraged the council members to attend some of the ROTC classes so they can become more familiar with the program. He referenced the course schedule provided to the members. He suggested that they contact the instructor prior to attending a class both as a courtesy and to make sure that they would be attending on a normal class day. The contact information was not provided with the schedule, but Mrs. Bateman will provide it to the council by email.

Veterans Day

The Veterans Day Ceremony will take place on November 11th at 1:00pm in the Armory. The council was encouraged to attend. Prof. Scheeline and the Navy have been working to make this more of a community event and have taken steps to ensure good PR. CAPT Haugen explained that last year they had good participation from several local veterans groups and were hoping to continue that. Parking had been an issue in the past, but was not expected to be a problem this year as it is on a Sunday.

It was asked if refreshments were going to be served at the Ceremony. At the time they were not in the plans and the idea was discussed in the group. Some felt Veterans Day was a somber occasion and refreshments were not necessary, others felt that refreshments would provide a good opportunity for interaction among the attendees especially the cadets and veterans. The cost of refreshments at previous commissioning ceremonies was approximately \$500 and would be the expected cost for this event as well. LTC Stetson made a motion to include refreshments at the Veterans Day Ceremony. It was seconded by Nick Larson and approved by the council.

Military Minor

Prof. Scheeline gave an update on the military minor. He referenced the document that had been drafted the previous year as a possibility for the minor. At this point none of the outside departments that have classes considered in the minor draft have been contacted. Also, the decision on who this minor should be targeted at, either ROTC students, non-ROTC students, or a combination of both, was stalled last year. There was a previous attempt at establishing a minor in the '90s but it was rejected for policy/paperwork reasons. Prof. Scheeline feels that the idea of a minor shouldn't be rejected because of policy/paperwork. The council should discuss and explore the idea and if they decide it is not a good idea there should be a reason why to place in the record. The Committee on Course and Program Approval is charged with working on the minor.

There was some discussion about the minor draft document. Prof. Pearlstein felt that it would be very beneficial to ROTC Engineering students because they would take the stronger electives listed in sections II and III. He didn't think that it would appeal to non-ROTC students and felt that the minor should provide more of a broad military understanding. LTC Stetson thought it would be difficult to have non-ROTC students in some of the ROTC courses listed, specifically MILS 341 which draws a lot from the students' summer LDAC experience. Prof. Sandretto agreed that some of the ROTC courses listed would be too specific to the military for non-ROTC students.

Prof. Scheeline explained that the draft was a very basic idea of the possible minor and would definitely need to be discussed and changed. The objective and target audience will need to be established and they can work from there. LTC Bauer mentioned that one of his lower level courses would be much more suitable for the minor but would not meet the high course level requirement in the minor. Prof. Boppart asked if there were any ROTC classes at the 300 level that would work well for non-ROTC students. Prof. Scheeline explained the possibility of giving a course a different number when certain additional criteria are met. He felt this could be a possible work around to that issue.

Prof. Randolph mentioned the uncertainty of HIST 251 being offered in future years. Prof. Scheeline followed this up saying that since none of the departments with courses listed in section II have been contacted, there is no way to know if any of the departments would be willing to satisfy potential additional demand for their classes. LTC Stetson mentioned contacting counterparts at other schools that offer a military minor. Prof. Scheeline listed three schools in the big ten that offer a military minor. Nick Larson stated that he was aware of a school in Kentucky that offered a military major.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

CAPT Haugen gave a briefing on the Naval ROTC program.

The documents referenced in the meeting are available in the MEC office.