

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Military Education Council

208 Armory Building
505 East Armory Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820



Military Education Council Meeting
September 14, 2011 - 3:00 pm
Naval Science Conference Room, 237 Armory Bldg.

Present: Alexander Scheeline, Chair, Jennifer Klein, MEC Secretary, LTC Kurt Bauer, Marni Boppart, Jack Dempsey, George Friedman, Chad Garland, CAPT James Haugen, Nick Larson, Arne Pearlstein, and LTC Christopher Robbins

Absent: Susan Brewer, Kristin Hoganson

Internal Committee Business

Prof Scheeline called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm. Prof Friedman made a motion to approve the Minutes from the April 18, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded and the Minutes were approved.

For the 2011-2012 subcommittees, Prof Scheeline announced that the Faculty Review Committee will be Prof Hoganson (chair), Prof Boppart and Prof Pearlstein. The Course and Program Approval Committee, which will work on the consideration of the minor, will be Prof Friedman (chair), LTC Bauer, CAPT Haugen, LTC Robbins, and Prof. Scheeline. This committee will also have a student and an additional faculty member, but appointment will wait until two vacancies on the council are filled.

The Program and Evaluation Committee will consist of the entire Council. Prof Scheeline did not know of any immediate need for the Interdepartmental Coordination Committee and decided to put off appointing members until the Senate had appointed the rest of the Council.

Prof Scheeline requested volunteers to represent the MEC at the NROTC Conference and Veterans' Day. No one was available to attend the NROTC Conference. Prof Friedman will attend the Veterans' Day event.

Service Activities

LTC Robbins gave an after-action report on the Summer Commissioning. There were two commissionees from the Army, four from the Air Force and none from the Navy. The commissioning went well and their only recommendation was to make sure that those performing the Oath of Office and receiving the First Salute are dressed in the proper military dress uniform.

CAPT Haugen reported that the 9/11 Memorial Run was a success. Completed prior to the start of classes, there were approximately 400 participants. The event was co-organized with Veterans Student Affairs, with participation by the Disabled Student Organization, the Israeli Student Organization, and the Police Training Institute.

On upcoming events, LTC Bauer stated that the POW/MIA Vigil would be taking place on Friday September 16th on the quad in front of the Union, starting at start 7:00 am.

CAPT Haugen stated that the Veterans Day event will be similar to past years. It will consist of a tri-service formation and wreath laying, Marine demonstration, and a guest speaker (not yet identified). Dad's Weekend will be going on and they hope to schedule the Veterans Day observance to allow some dads (and moms) to attend.

Fall Commissioning will take place on December 18th. Because there will be no commissionees from the Navy or Army and only one or two from the Air Force, the Air Force will take responsibility for this event.

The Members of the council had not yet received a tri-service calendar, so Jenny, the MEC Secretary will work with the Navy Secretary to get it distributed to everyone.

ROTC Pedagogy and Potential Military Minor

Prof Scheeline explained that MEC Members need to be knowledgeable of the ROTC courses and perhaps attend some classes so that they can make informed decisions on the proposed minor and hiring of faculty. The three COs agreed that members of the Council could attend classes and would provide course schedules and syllabi to the MEC Secretary for distribution to the Council.

On the proposed minor, Prof Friedman explained that a minor requires 18-21 hrs, mostly advanced courses, with some possibly having prerequisites. He also noted that minors are optional, the student applies to take the minor, takes the required courses, and the department offering the minor notifies the Registrar's Office when the student has completed the requirements.

Two alternative visions for the minor were considered. One emphasizes a minor readily achievable by interested cadets so that ROTC participation can result in academic recognition by the University. The other focuses on increasing awareness of military matters by civilian students. Prof Friedman thought that the Senate would be more receptive to the second option. Prof Boppart later mentioned that she thought the first option may be more acceptable to the Education Policy Committee. A draft of possible minor requirements was provided to the Council.

The possibility that some of the courses would not work for students not active in ROTC because of labs was brought up, but LTC Robbins, with concurrence of the other COs, stated that the labs are separate courses from their academic course counterparts. Prof Pearlstein stated that AFAS 221 & 222 had been petitioned and used for general education credit in the College of Engineering.

There was general discussion of the desirability of demonstrating student demand for the minor, perhaps by surveying cadets. Various college policies and constraints may affect how many cadets would take extra courses to attain the minor.

Mr. Garland brought up the minor in leadership in the College of ACES. He said that Dean Osborne in Veterans Services was looking into adding a military track to this minor. Prof Scheeline said he would get in touch with Dean Osborne about the minor issue.

LTC Robbins stated that a potential problem with having non-ROTC students take the upper level ROTC would be a lack of basic knowledge of the military that experienced ROTC students have. Prof Pearlstein suggested combining course options from sections 1 and 2 of the first-draft course list so that non-ROTC students could complete the minor. Prof Boppart thought that because of the large number of political science courses, perhaps the minor should be coming from that department, and that it would not be good to have a military minor where ROTC courses are not required. Prof Friedman said that different courses could be added to the minor, and Mr. Garland suggested that some of the courses used for the global security certificate may be possibilities.

Prof Friedman explained that one obstacle with the minor will be convincing dubious Senators that the ROTC departments are *de facto* as well as *de jure* academic units, and should be able to host a minor. As with all program proposals, careful justification will be needed. This includes, as Prof Boppart noted, solid data on student interest.

Standards for ROTC Faculty

In new business, standards for approval of faculty nominations were discussed. LTC Robbins explained the process of filling positions starts at the military level where applicants compete for a position and then the military makes a selection. Their selection is then forwarded to the University for approval. Prof Scheeline read the MEC standards for appointees from a memo written by MEC chair Fred Neumann to then-Provost Larry Faulkner in 1997. He stated that “potentially admissible to the Graduate College” is vague as this differs among departments. MEC has the ability to add constraints on qualifications if they support the missions of the University.

LTC Robbins noted that these instructors only teach ROTC courses and the qualifications necessary to teach ROTC courses would be very different than qualifications required of instructors in other campus departments. This is a reason why it is important for the MEC to have more knowledge about the ROTC courses.

Teaching officers of the military departments are seen by other University faculty as adjunct faculty. Thus, in order to maintain integrity as an academic department and to be seen as peer departments by other campus units, it is important that military faculty have proper credentials both academically and militarily. Concerns for academic credentials are heightened if the instructors are teaching courses that can be used for General Education credit or if they would be used toward a minor.

Upcoming Outreach

LTC Robbins noted ROTC involvement in the upcoming Honor Flight for WWII veterans to visit the WWII memorial in Washington, DC. There is a fundraiser at the I Hotel on September 9th, with the flight on October 18th. A reception for returning veterans may involve cadets. Also,

Jennifer Larson in the Athletic Department is coordinating with ROTC for the Dad's Day / Veterans Day game.

Service Briefing

LTC Robbins gave an AROTC briefing, a copy of which is on file in the MEC office.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.