

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Military Education Council

208 Armory Building
505 East Armory Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820



Military Education Council Meeting
September 16, 2013 10:00 am
Naval Science Conference Room, 237 Armory Bldg.

Present: Alexander Scheeline, Chair, Jenny Bateman, Secretary, Tom Anastasio, Brittany Barker for Baxter Reed, Marni Boppart, Joe Brown, CAPT J.D. Haugen, Chuan Huang, Arne Pearlstein, Sean Musil, Michael Sandretto, LTC Eric Stetson, and LTC Shane Sullivan
Absent: Baxter Reed, Janeen Salak-Johnson, and John Randolph

Call to Order

Prof. Scheeline called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made. Minutes of the April 15, 2013 meeting were approved by voice vote after three corrections were made.

Summary of MEC's Mission

Prof. Scheeline explained the responsibilities of the Military Education Council. These include vetting ROTC teaching staff, supporting equipment and facility needs, providing infrastructure and staff, coordinating tri-service events, and balancing the competing demands of University and military culture. Prof. Scheeline explained the vetting process and that the additional financial support to the departments allow for better training than the standard ROTC unit. He noted that the MEC funds a University secretary for each of the units and the MEC. He gave examples of the tri-service events that the MEC funds. The COs have been instructed to notify Prof. Scheeline (through their University reporting line) in the case of ROTC disciplinary action or other unexpected events.

Active Subcommittees

The MEC is required to have four subcommittees. The Faculty Review Committee is chaired by Marni Boppart. The Committee on Course and Program Approval and the Program Evaluation Committee are combined and chaired by Michael Sandretto. There has been little need for the Interdepartmental Coordination Committee, so it is structured as a committee of the whole.

Report of Academic Year 2012-2013 Expenditures

The report of the FY13 expenditures was provided to the Council. Questions about the report were answered by Mrs. Bateman. Prof. Scheeline explained that requests from the Departments for this year's additional spending are due to him by November 1st. He authorizes and tracks these requests to ensure appropriate resource sharing. These purchases all adhere to the rules regarding expenditure of state funds.

After-Action Reports

Shawna Morrison Memorial: LTC Stetson reported that the event was a unique opportunity for the ROTC to collaborate with a variety of units. Ms. Morrison's family was "blown away" by the outpouring for the event. LAS should be applauded for its coordination of, and public relations concerning, the event.

Spring and Summer Commissioning: Both ceremonies were deemed a success. LTC Stetson was happy to have Assistant Secretary of the Army and former Chair of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees Thomas Lamont as the guest speaker at the Spring Commissioning. In August, one Marine and two Army lieutenants were commissioned.

9/11 Memorial Run: CAPT Haugen reported that the weather cooperated this year. The start was on time and very few participants fell out. Royal Mortenson of the Fire Service Institute was the guest speaker.

Orientation of New Cadets: LTC Stetson reported that after the attrition of several cadets following last year's Army orientation program, some changes were made this year to promote a positive leadership environment. He felt the changes made for a successful orientation. He also stated that in the future, he could provide a schedule of the orientation to the MEC with certain events flagged that they might observe.

CAPT Haugen reported that the Navy's optional orientation week had been cut from 4 ½ to 2 ½ days because of funding constraints. Focus is on drill, physical fitness, customs and courtesies, and sailing. With shortened orientation, early freshman performance lags that of prior years.

Plans for 2013-2014

Gen. Ed. Military Course: Prof. Scheeline explained the discussion of the last two years concerning a military minor. The proposal never matured because of a lack of a sponsoring degree-granting department. Instead, he suggested that a general education course on matters military be created. He has discussed the possibility with the COs. The Committee on Course and Program Approval/Program Evaluation Committee is tasked with proposing a course syllabus at the next MEC meeting. If approved by MEC, the course would go to the Gen. Ed. council for approval.

While this course would be targeted at civilian students, ROTC students could also take the course. Cadets might use the elective to learn about the other services. It was noted however, that most UIUC colleges have a limit to the number of credits that can come from military departments.

Personnel rotations: CAPT Haugen reported that he will be submitting a packet for his replacement within the next few weeks. The nominee is CAPT Chris Moore, and he comes from a similar background as CAPT Haugen, EA-6B Prowlers. The Air Force will also have a nominee to replace Assistant Professor CAPT Warren soon.

Sequestration and budget pressures: As the three services receive cuts in their Federal funding, University resources are moving from subsidizing equipment to subsidizing education.

Out-of-state tuition policy: Professor Scheeline recounted a communication with Vice Provost Michael Andrechak, who reported that UIUC was informed of the Navy's intention to pay only in-state tuition for all NROTC students, regardless of residency status. UIUC has accepted that for AY 2014. Mr. Andrechak asked Prof. Scheeline and MEC for guidance for future years, to be provided by the end of this academic year.

There are several concerns here. First, only the Navy has requested this change, while the Air Force and Army are still paying the out-of-state rate for nonresident scholarship cadets. Also, the total difference in tuition for the 15 out-of-state NROTC students is more than the MEC budget. A related issue mentioned by Prof. Scheeline is that there is some pressure to have all Veterans considered as in-state. (After the meeting, Prof. Pearlstein noted that this is not “pressure.” First, post-9/11 Federal Veterans benefits cover only the in-state rate. Second, as of August 14, 2013, at all Illinois public universities and community colleges, Governor Quinn's signature of House Bill 2353 waives the out-of-state tuition difference for all qualified veterans regardless of Illinois residency status.) Options are to a) not accede to the request in future years; b) accede to the request in future years and require the students to make up the difference through payment, borrowing, or financial aid, or c) accede to the request in future years and waive the difference. Current students who were admitted with the expectation of having their tuition paid by the Navy should be considered separately from future students.

The proposal to limit scholarship payment amount came from the Naval Supply Corps. Some schools only charge the in-state rate for all NROTC students on scholarship. Prof. Scheeline will attempt to find out if there are any groups of students who get scholarships or waivers for the out-of-state difference and additional facts about this issue prior to the next meeting

Attending ROTC Classes: Council members were encouraged to attend ROTC classes. The class schedule for the semester was provided. Instructors should be contacted prior to attending to make sure the content of the day would be good for observation.

Armory 100 year Anniversary: LTC Stetson was curious what the University wanted to do to celebrate the anniversary of the Armory building in 2014. He had been in contact with the gentleman who produces banners on the poles around campus, who suggested ringing the building with tri-service banners. Study continues to restore the flag poles on the top of the building. Stetson hopes that the new director of F&S, Allan Stratman, will be supportive. Some alumni might be interested in contributing financially. Prof. Scheeline will get in touch with Mr. Stratman and, later, the Chancellor or Provost.

Upcoming Events

Dads' Day 5K: September 27th at 5:00 p.m. Proceeds are going to the Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education.

Navy Day: Prof. Scheeline will attend the Association of NROTC Colleges and Universities meeting in Norfolk, VA in October. He has added the financial and tuition issue to the agenda.

POW/MIA Vigil: 7:00 a.m. September 20th to 7:00 a.m. September 21st. This 24-hour vigil is at the flag pole on the south side of the Union.

Groundbreaking for Veteran's Center: November 8th time has not been confirmed. This may be an opportunity for a tri-service color guard.

Veterans Day: Sunday, November 10th at 1:00 p.m. on the Armory track. After the success of last year's Sunday ceremony, observance on the Sunday closest to Veterans Day will be annual.

Briefing

CAPT Haugen gave a briefing on the Navy ROTC program.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.