

Minutes  
Military Education Council  
April 3, 2023 2:00 pm  
Army Conference Room (Armory 111) and zoom

Present: Thomas Teper, Jenny Bateman, CAPT Dave Casteel, Kent Choquette, Yulanda Curtis (zoom), LTC Daniel Johnson, Jason Sakowski (zoom), Lt Col Jason Scalzitti, and Peter Silhan.

Absent: James Brennan, Jeffery Eric Jenkins, Angela Lyons, Jackie Pranada, and Leonardo Jimenez.

I. Approval of Minutes 1/18/23 Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm. A correction to the spelling of Prof. Teper's name in the minutes from the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting was noted. With that change, CAPT Casteel moved to approve and LTC Johnson seconded the approval.

II. Upcoming Events

A. Honors Day. The event will be held in Foellinger Auditorium on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM. MG Rodney Boyd, Commander of the Illinois Army National Guard will be the guest speaker. Approximately twelve representatives from various sponsoring organizations will attend to present awards.

B. Commissioning. Scheduled for 1:00 PM on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup> in Foellinger Auditorium. Guest speaker will be Rear Admiral John Menoni, Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans, and Strategy, N3/N5B, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. 38 students are expected to commission: 7 Naval, 24 Army, 7 Air Force.

Naval ROTC is planning a morning recognition ceremony for their commissionees that day. Air Force ROTC will do a service only commissioning at 10 AM, they will work with CAPT Boyd make the Tri-Service ceremony go smoothly.

Lt Col Scalzitti is planning to attend Commencement and do the presentation of ROTC graduates. ROTC will also provide the color guard for Commencement.

III. Teachers Ranked as Excellent.

Prof. Teper reported that CAPT Matthew Woody, of Air Force ROTC was listed in the Fall 2022 teachers ranked as excellent list. Lt Col Scalzitti added that CAPT Woody had also received an Air Force ROTC outstanding instructor recognition for their region.

IV. Budget Report Feedback.

Prof. Teper reported that the unit had received positive feedback from the review committee on the budget report. They acknowledged the growth potential for the unit, noted how peer institutions have better recruitment programs for ROTC, and the potential advancement opportunity for the unit. The

funding decisions will be made at the Provost level, and we have not received anything to date regarding funding changes.

V. Advancement Update- student affairs

Prof. Teper reported that Mindy Spencer with the Student Affairs advancement office has volunteered to take the Armed Forces on under her purview. Up until this point, the unit has not had any specific advancement support. The Armed Forces leadership met with Mindy and one of her staff members in February, and they are taking an active role in supporting the units, which has already seen some results. This is a long needed and welcome support to the units.

VI. STA-21 & Green to Gold Update

CAPT Casteel reported that the STA-21 program, which is a selective program for enlisted sailors to earn degrees and commissions has had challenges as the Navy's timeline for the program and the University's admission timeline does not line up. In recent years, students accepted to the Navy's program have wanted to attend U of I, but have been unable to because they could not get University acceptance by Navy's deadline. Naval ROTC has worked with University admissions staff to work out the best procedures for the unit to guide STA-21 candidates in order to make U of I a possibility in the future.

The Army's Green to Gold program is similar to Navy's STA-21. It is intended for enlisted officers who already have some college credit to complete their degrees and earn commissions. The challenge in this case is that Army requires that degree is completed in 4 semesters, and in many cases University of Illinois will not accept enough of the earned credit as transfer credit, making it impossible for the soldier to complete their degree in the Army's allowable time frame. In response to this, Army is looking to identify a point of contact in LAS who can work with the unit on a case by case basis to assist with review of transfer credit and offering potential solutions for these cases. Typically, two or three soldiers express interest in the green to gold program at UIUC's Army ROTC program each year.

Also noted in this discussion was that in a review of utilization of veterans benefits, UIUC ranks last in the state and in the Big 10.

VII. Air Force Briefing

Lt Col Scalzitti gave an update highlighting Air Force ROTC. He has been making progress utilizing the Room and Board Scholarship as a tool for recruitment, and hopes to establish some data on effectiveness.

In the summer after Sophomore year, Air Force ROTC cadets attend field training if they are selected to continue with the program. Nationally, 75% of cadets are selected to attend field training. All 17 of the 17 UIUC Air Force ROTC candidates were selected this year. This is an example the unit's "quality over quantity" aim. Overall, the cadets in the detachment have above average performance and above average acceptance for summer internships.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.