

**MILITARY EDUCATION COUNCIL**

208 Armory Building, MC 526  
505 East Armory Avenue  
Champaign, IL 61820

**Military Education Council Meeting Minutes**

April 29, 2022 2:00 PM

**Zoom Meeting**

**Present:** Tom Teper, Jennifer Bateman, CAPT Dave Casteel, Kent Choquette, Yulanda Curtis, Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, MIDN Joseph Jenkot, LTC Dan Johnson, Angela Lyons, Jason Sakowski, Peter Silhan, Lt Col Joseph Timberlake,

**Absent:** James Brennan, Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Zackary Landers and Matthew Rodriguez

CAPT Casteel moved and Lt Col Timberlake seconded to approve the provided minutes from the 01/21/22 meeting with no changes.

**Honors Day** Ms. Bateman reported the Tri-Service Honors Day Ceremony took place at Foellinger Auditorium on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Twelve presenters from various sponsoring organizations attended along with Bill Bernhard representing the Provost's Office. Army ROTC Alumnus, Mr. Fred Ranck was the guest speaker. One hundred and forty individual awards were presented to ROTC students. The News Gazette did a nice article highlighting Mr. Ranck and his presence at the event. Overall, the event went well, with some small items to correct for future years- music, script corrections. A small number of programs were purchased for the presenters and guests only. Lt Col Johnson requested that programs or bios of the guest speaker be provided for the students receiving the awards in future years.

**May Commissioning** Lt Col Timberlake reported on the plans for the Tri-Service Commissioning Ceremony to take place in Foellinger Auditorium on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. Guest speaker, Col (Ret) Arnyce Pock is set to attend. Ms. Hill is working with the other services to finalize details and pass along information to the students.

**Teachers Ranked as Excellent** Prof. Teper recognized the four faculty members who were listed as Teachers Ranked as Excellent for the Fall 2021 semester: MAJ Devin Berman for AFAS 221 and 331, Mr. Eric Ashworth for MILS 120, MAJ Jennifer Soderlind for MILS 101, and CDR Dave Stebbins for NS 101 and 303. CAPT Casteel mentioned that LT Hartman would have also received the excellent rating, but was not included in the list because he had fewer than five students in the class. It was noted how commendable that approximately 40% of the course offerings for the term had the instructor recognized. Prof. Teper mentioned that this would be a good item to include in future budget report documents.

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**FY23 Budget Report** Prof. Teper reported that we received feedback from the budget review committee regarding our FY23 report. They appreciated our narrative regarding capacity for growth and the loss of potential students translating to lost revenue and population to the campus. They also recognized that our resources are well managed and that our carryover balance is diminishing. To date, we have no update on our budget allocation for FY23.

Prof. Teper also mentioned that a meeting is scheduled for Dr. Bill Bernhard and the Commanding Officers after the end of the Spring term. This will be an opportunity to discuss the struggles with gaining an audience with colleges to work through issues and the losses to the University when Federal ROTC scholarship students choose to attend other schools. The Commanding Officers will work to provide data on scholarships and comparable budgets with other big 10 universities.

**Faculty Turnover** Lt Col Timberlake reported that he is expecting his replacement in mid-July. The nomination packet for the new Commanding Officer should be coming soon. Also leaving the Air Force ROTC unit is MAJ Bergman whose replacement is a year out. To cover classes in the coming year, they are exploring having one of the Non-Commissioned Officers instruct a course or possibly hiring a contractor for the year.

CAPT Casteel reported that the XO, CDR Stebbins will be rotating out and he does not expect his position to be filled in the fall. He will take on that course. Two other staff members will be leaving this summer, but their replacements have already arrived.

LTC Johnson is losing both NCOs in Army this summer along with CAPT Carr and MAJ Soderlind. At this point, only a replacement for MAJ Soderlind has been authorized and he is hoping to get a graduate of the program, Cordelia Grob, to fill that position.

Prof. Teper presented Lt Col Timberlake with a plaque in appreciation for his service to ROTC and the University of Illinois.

**Naval ROTC Briefing** CAPT Casteel gave a briefing on the NROTC program. Of note, the NROTC unit currently has a lower than usual enrollment of 46 students.

CAPT Casteel also spoke of the ALERT program with the College of Engineering that is sponsored by the Department of Naval Research. This program hires ROTC students as researchers and has a focus of developing ROTC students' research skills by actively engaging in research. Both Naval ROTC and Army ROTC students have participated and all reviews of the program have been great thus far.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16.