



Military Education Council Minutes  
October 21, 2022 2:00 PM  
Armory Room 111, (Army Conference Room)  
Zoom:

Meeting URL: <https://illinois.zoom.us/j/82167587666?pwd=L2lEZng4dVYrciRFdTlubkNWT1gvdz09&from=addon>  
Meeting ID: 821 6758 7666  
Password: 646718

Present: (in person) Tom Teper, Jennifer Bateman, James Brennan, CAPT Dave Casteel, Kent Choquette, LTC Dan Johnson, Lt Col Jason Scalzitti  
(over zoom) Yulanda Curtis, Angela Lyons, Jason Sakowski, Peter Silhan

Absent: Jeffery Eric Jenkins, Leonardo Jimenez, and Jackie Pranada,

**I. Approval of Minutes, 9/14/22 Meeting**

Prof. Teper called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm. LTC Johnson moved and Prof. Brennan seconded to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2022 meeting as provided.

**II. Topics**

**a. Removal of Committee of Program Approval & Program Evaluation and Interdepartmental Coordination Committees from the MEC organization**

An updated organizational document was provided that defined the duties of just the Faculty Review Subcommittee and placed the responsibilities of the other previous subcommittees as responsibilities of the whole Military Education Council.

There was some discussion on the process for course and program approval. The military sets the coursework for the ROTC programs, however any changes to the academic catalog go through a review process at that the whole Military Education Council is involved in.

Two small edits were made to the provided document: Removing “with” from the fourth line and removing “regular” from the sentences starting with, “In the case of regular nominated faculty members.” Prof. Choquette moved and LTC Johnson seconded to approve the updated document with those changes. The updated document was approved.

**b. Association Of NROTC Colleges and Universities Report- Brennan**

Prof. Brennan attended the Association of Naval ROTC Colleges and Universities annual meeting in Daytona Beach, FL October 6-8, 2022 as a representative from the Military Education Council. He reported that there were 25 other Colleges and Universities in

attendance. Many of the representatives were administrators at their schools. There was a presentation from Christopher Adams, who is responsible for running the Naval ROTC program. Prof. Brennan reported a few big take-aways from the meeting.

First, there is concern about the overall declining interest in the military and ROTC throughout the country. There was a recent survey that showed willingness to serve has dropped from 26% to 9% and applications to the service academies are down 20%. Prof. Brennan found that other Universities had recognized this as an issue and were making proactive steps to make it easier for midshipmen to attend their schools. Early registration and a separate admissions stream were two examples.

Also, some schools have very successful alumni engagement and gift funding. This allows NROTC students at these schools additional opportunities for travel, training, and scholarships that set them apart from other institutions. An item to pursue at UIUC would be development of an ROTC alumni board for fundraising efforts. Prof. Brennan said having alumni involved was the important factor in having a successful advancement program.

The overall quality of NROTC programs and its students is something that we should work to promote within the University. Information on our diversity and student quality is important and impressive, but because of the de-centralized setup of UIUC and how ROTC is managed at this University, it has long been a challenge. It was suggested that we should work on this more at the college level. Prof. Brennan also, suggested rotating the MEC representative to this meeting each year. Next year's meeting will be in Tucson, AZ.

### **III. Events**

#### **a. Veterans Day- Casteel**

There are plans for a Veterans Day luncheon at the Chez Veterans Center on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. A joint ROTC colorguard will participate. COL Read will be the guest speaker. The event is open to military related students and faculty and staff on campus. So far around 60 have RSVP'd.

#### **b. December Commissioning**

Air Force will have two cadets commission in December and Navy will have one. Both services will hold their own small ceremonies for the event.

### **IV. Army Briefing- Johnson**

LTC Johnson briefed the group on the recent 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Military Women's Memorial that took place in Washington D.C. October 14-16th. Air Force Brigadier General (Retired) Wilma Vaught, an alumna of University of Illinois, was honored at the event, and our ROTC units were invited to provide the color guard. Three Air Force and six Army cadets attended the events. A donation to cover the travel expenses was provided by another alumna, COL Debbie Read.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.