



Minutes

Military Education Council

January 19, 2024 2:00 PM

Armory Room 111 (Army Conference Room)

Present: James Brennan, Jenny Bateman, CAPT Dave Casteel, Kent Choquette, Jonathan Ebel, LTC Daniel Johnson, Alex Nowak, Lt Col Jason Scalzitti, Nina Shearrill, Elle Wroblewski

Absent: Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Athol Kemball, Angela Lyons, Jason Sakowski, Vishnuh Bala

- I. Meeting was called to order at 2:01 by James Brennan. Introductions were made. Prof. Brennan motioned to approve the minutes from the 11/17/23 meeting. All approved, motioned passed.
- II. The commanding officers reported on current recruitment. The ROTC scholarship boards for the coming year are ongoing.
 - a. Air Force: Lt Col Scalzitti reported that at this point, approximately 7 students who have been awarded an Air Force ROTC scholarship indicate they will come to UIUC, there are approximately 40 prospects that have indicated some interest in UIUC that the unit is in contact with. This year, the our Air Force ROTC unit has an officer who is dedicated to recruitment. The room and board scholarship was successful in recruiting two out of state students this year.
 - b. Army: LTC Johnson reported that to date, they are expecting 7 Army Scholarship recipients to join the unit in the fall. Approximately 50-60 recipients have listed UIUC in their top three school choices and the unit is making contact with them. Many of these students have also applied to the service academies. Army ROTC has been involved in several activities to boost recruitment and promote ROTC overall. They make visits to many high schools in the Chicago-land area and participate in an Illinois State Tuition Waiver recruiting event at Camp Lincoln. There are some upcoming changes to put Army ROTC under the recruiting command, which should provide more recruitment opportunity for the unit. Additionally, Army plans to complete a reset in 2030 that will shift more support to higher population areas and away from some of the current programs in the East. UIUC's Army ROTC unit is in a good place for this with the proximity to Chicago.
 - c. Navy: CAPT Casteel reported that as of yet, no students have selected UIUC as a their top choice in the scholarship boards. The unit is expecting 1 STA-21 and 1 MECEP student in the fall (both of these are enlisted to officer programs). Naval ROTC doesn't fall under any recruiting command and the unit doesn't receive any recruitment support, so all of their recruiting activities are on their own. The current executive officer has been going beyond his typical duties to improve recruitment efforts for the unit, which has received good recognition from Navy command.

- III. Budget Report: Prof. Brennan and Ms. Bateman went over the highlights of the draft of the Annual Budget Report that is due on February 2nd. They requested input from the Council as soon as possible. Prof. Brennan mentioned that there are plans for he and Dr. Bernhard to meet with Engineering to discuss how the college could develop or improve partnerships with ROTC.

Adding the contracts with the services to the appendix of the document and including more information about how DoD financially supports to programs were suggestions from the Council. Also, regarding recruitment, Cadet Shearrill suggested developing a short tri-service slide presentation that could be shared with high schools regarding the ROTC opportunity.

IV. Events

- a. Honors Day (April 25th 5:30 pm, Foellinger Auditorium) A guest speaker has not yet been identified, but Air Force has made a request to see if Maj Gen Cole is available. Units are currently making their selections for award recipients.
 - b. Spring Commissioning (May 13) Plans are ongoing for Commissioning. No guest speaker has been confirmed, but some potential options were identified.
- V. Briefing: Navy- CAPT Casteel gave a briefing on the Naval ROTC program
- VI. The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 pm