

Agenda

Military Education Council

April 26, 2024 2:00 PM

Armory Room 111, or Zoom:

<https://illinois.zoom.us/j/84123405171?pwd=SlpsRVFsRjBnS0t2QkxpZkdVRG9CZz09&from=addon>

Present (in person): James Brennan, Jenny Bateman, CAPT Dave Casteel, Kent Choquette, Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, LTC Dan Johnson, Athol Kembell, Lt Col Jason Scalzitti. Visitor: MAJ Zachary Miller

Present (remotely): Alex Nowak, Jason Sakowski, Nina Shearrill, Elle Wroblewski.

Absent: Jonathan Ebel, Angela Lyons, Vishnuh Bala

- I. Meeting was called to order at 2:05 pm by James Brennan. Motion was made to approve the minutes as provided from the 1/19/2024 meeting. Jeffrey Eric Jenkins abstained, all others approved, motion passed.
- II. Prof. Brennan reported that two ROTC faculty members were recognized in the Fall 2023 Teachers Ranked as Excellent list. Capt. Justin Zinkl for AFAS 111 and Mr. Eric Ashworth for MILS 120.
- III. LTC Johnson spoke on a current concern regarding parking. At present there are a limited number of "rotational" spots available for ROTC in parking garage E15. As new personnel come on they are automatically being assigned spaces in lots that are further from campus, which is a concern because of the untraditional hours that ROTC faculty and staff work. In the most recent case, parking granted his request to put the newest employee in E15. However, as the department cadre grows moving forward, there is concern that this issue may come up again.

The Council discussed this situation. The group expressed that it was reasonable for the cadre to have parking in a reasonably close area such as E15. As the current situation has been resolved, no action is necessary at this time. However, if challenges come up with parking moving forward, the Council is prepared to advocate for the department.

- IV. Prof. Brennan informed the group of recent discussions with the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (DIA) regarding ROTC use of the Armory floor. ROTC had reached out to our DIA contact with a request to put in writing the long standing oral agreement that is in place for ROTC's use of the Armory floor. DIA's response to this was to suggest an MOU with ROTC that would charge ROTC for exclusive use of the space during specified times at the cost of \$14,000 annually. Alternatively, they were agreeable putting in writing a Facility Use Agreement that records the shared use of the space.

Prof. Brennan met with Bill Bernhard regarding this situation, and they discussed if the Provost's

Office had interest in moving to a system where all of ROTC use of space in the Armory was accounted for budgetarily. Dr. Bernhard advised to keep the agreement with DIA as it is currently- not paying for exclusive use, and that there was not appetite to formalize budgetarily all of ROTC's space assignments.

The Council discussed this situation. At the time of the meeting, ROTC had not received the Facility Use Agreement draft from DIA. If challenges come up in developing that agreement with DIA, Prof. Brennan will work Dr. Bernhard to elevate the discussion to a higher level in DIA. It was also suggested that questions about this situation could be brought to the director of the DIA when they attend a future University Senate meeting.

V. Events

- a. The Honors Day Ceremony took place the previous evening, April 25th. Overall the event went well. Over 140 individual awards were presented to cadets and midshipmen. Representatives from eighteen organizations attended to present their awards- one donor travelling from Seattle, WA. CDR Joseph Rank was the guest speaker and Provost Coleman attended the event. This was the first time the Provost has attended Honors Day in many years.
- b. Tri Service Commissioning Ceremony is scheduled for 10:00 AM On Monday, May 13th in Foellinger Auditorium. Alumnus, Major General Speise, Marine (Ret.) will be the guest speaker for the event. A total of 40 students will commission: 13 Air Force, 19 Army, 8 Navy.

VI. Prof. Brennan announced the upcoming meeting of NROTC Association of Colleges and Universities Meeting October 24-26 in Lincoln, Nebraska. He asked if any Council members would be available to attend. Arrangements for travel will be made in late summer.

VII. Prof. Brennan recognized LTC Johnson and thanked him for his five years of service to the University with a plaque. His replacement, MAJ Miller was in attendance at the meeting. CAPT Casteel and Lt Col Scalzitti each expect to be at the University one more year.

VIII. LTC Johnson and MAJ Miller spoke about some discussion they had with University Strategic Marketing and Branding regarding ROTC's lack of a presence on the University of Illinois website and that Armed Forces units are currently not aligned with the University branding efforts. They requested additional support for marking and communication for the Armed Forces units. Prof. Brennan stated that he would work to set up a meeting with Dr. Bernhard regarding this topic later this summer.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 PM