

**Minutes****Military Education Council****November 22, 2024 1:30 PM****Army ROTC Conference Room, Armory Room 111**

**Present:** James Brennan, Jenny Bateman, Chung-Yi Chiu, Kent Choquette, Yulanda Curtis, LTC Zac Miller, MIDN Matthew Pruyn, Lt Col Jason Scalzitti, and Elle Wroblewski. CAPT Dave Casteel via zoom

**Absent:** Jonathan Ebel, Athol Kemball, Jason Sakowski, Joseph Lehman, Ethan Stringer

- I. Meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm
- II. Minutes from the 9/6/24 Meeting were approved by all as provided.
- III. Old Business
  - a. Prof. Brennan spoke about the Association of Naval ROTC Colleges and Universities Meeting he attended in Lincoln, NE on October 24-26. One item of concern in Naval ROTC is the need for 85% of incoming students to be STEM majors. Prof. Brennan also noted that the association encourages members to reach out to non-member schools to join the organization.
  - b. Events – After Action
    - i. MIDN Pruyn spoke about the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb held at Memorial Stadium on September 11<sup>th</sup> in the early morning. The event was very well attended with around 500 people from ROTC, Police and Fire Institutes, fraternities participating. The Police Chief Spoke at the event and \$700 was raised for the Travis Manion Foundation.
    - ii. Lt Col Scalzitti reported that the POW/MIA Vigil was held outside of Foellinger Auditorium. It is challenging to staff the twenty-four hour vigil with cadets and the services will consider modifying the event in future.
    - iii. MIDN Pruyn spoke about the Naval ROTC's WGNB Reunion Weekend that consisted of tours of the unit in the Armory building, the Naval Ball, inducting the first member into the WGNB hall of fame, and an alumni tailgate prior to the 10/18 football game. Approximately 200 alumni of the WGNB attended.

- iv. The Veterans Day ceremony held at the Chez Veterans Center was a smaller event this year than in years past. The Chez center plans the event and ROTC supported with color guard.

It was suggested to hold a future MEC meeting at the Chez Center.

#### IV. New Business

##### a. Events- Upcoming

- i. Each service will hold their own small December Commissioning ceremonies for the few students commissioning mid-year (as opposed to a combined, tri-service event). Air Force has three, Army has six, and Navy has one Marine student commissioning.
- ii. Ms. Bateman reported that Honors Day is scheduled for the evening of 4/24/25 in Foellinger Auditorium. Naval ROTC will be supporting the event this year, and it should be very similar to past events. Ms. Bateman will be sending out information in early December to the three services to begin the award selection and planning process.
- iii. Lt. Col. Scalzitti reported that May Commissioning will be on 5/19/25 in Foellinger Auditorium. They are planning a late morning event in order to accommodate service-specific ceremonies prior before the tri-service event. He expects the event will be similar to last year's keeping several of the adjustments Navy made. Guest speaker is to be determined.
- iv. Lt. Col. Scalzitti also noted that on 11/25/24 several local young people will be taking the oath of enlistment into the Air Force during half time of the Illinois Men's Basketball Game.

- b. LTC Miller reported that in Fall of 2025, U of I Army ROTC will become the host school for EIU Army ROTC. This change will increase the workload for the Army ROTC faculty, with a total of 206 cadets between the two programs. Cadet Command has authorized an additional Assistant Professor of Military Science for UIUC to support this change. There will be just one Recruiting Officer and Logistics Tech (GS positions) to support the combined program. Cadets from the two Universities will come together for a few weekend training events throughout the year, but courses and most activities will remain separate with EIU cadets continuing to participate at EIU.

- c. LTC Miller also reported that Army ROTC has submitted a proposal to the Provost to move Military Science (only Army ROTC) under the College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences. The goal with this move is for the department to gain administrative support functions that Military Education Council is not set up to provide. This includes communications support, college advancement support, and advocacy to gain additional credit for MILS courses and potentially establish a military minor. ACES was selected by Army because they offer leadership courses that align with the Army ROTC purpose of instruction. LTC Miller is scheduled to meet with the Dean of ACES on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss this proposal. Details regarding finances, space, faculty approval, and what Military Education Council responsibilities would remain in regards to Army ROTC are to be determined.

Prof. Brennan reported that he has had some discussion with Dr. Bernhard, our Provost's office report, about this proposal. The Provost intends to keep the Military Education Council. If the department is moved to ACES, ACES would receive the IU funding for MILS courses that currently is absorbed at the Provost level. ACES would also be responsible for space costs associated with the Army ROTC. It could take significant time for details regarding this move to be worked out, if approved.

- V. LTC Miller provided a briefing on additional Army ROTC updates. Highlights include:
  - a. The acquisition of two Howitzer cannons to use at Illinois football games to promote ROTC. These were provided by Army and are being stored by Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.
  - b. A new promotional video was shared promoting University of Illinois Army ROTC funded by Army.
  - c. The unit is working to improve departmental classroom 133. Army has purchased new furniture for the room. LTC Miller has met with CITL and a representative from the Provost to explore options for updating the classrooms. There is potential to change it to a general assignment classroom so that improvements will be funded at the campus level, but the department would lose exclusive use of the space.
- VI. Meeting was adjourned