

Activity University-ROTC Relationships Committee (URRC)

Period: AY 2016-17

Report prepared by:

Jeffrey Varner
Professor,
Robert Frederick Smith School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
244 Olin Hall, Cornell University,
Ithaca NY 14853

Head, URRRC

The URRRC provides University oversight for the hiring of active military personal that will serve as military instructors in the Cornell ROTC programs. The committee is composed of tenured Cornell faculty members spread across multiple colleges and the heads (and/or executive officers) of each of the service branches.

As a committee we interview potential candidates (typically via videoconference) for open positions within the ROTC programs. We discuss each candidate as a committee, and vote to approve or disapprove of the appointment. Candidates are extensively vetted by the service branches before being interview by the URRRC.

The committee met three times and conducted four interviews during AY 2016-17. One additional interview was scheduled for March 17, 2017 but was cancelled by the Army (candidate was assigned to alternative duties).

Sept 14, 2016:

Notes. Approved unanimously CAPT Erich Diehl as a Courtesy Professor with the Cornell Naval ROTC unit. CAPT Diehl will serve as the CO of the NROTC unit.

Committee members present:

J. Varner, Head URRRC and Professor CBE
Charles Walcott, Member URRRC and Professor NBE
Charles Aquadro, Member URRRC and Professor MBG
Patrick Blankenship, CO-NROTC MAJ USMC
Juan Torress CO-AFROTC, LTC AFROTC
David Barber, CO-AROTC, LTC US Army

March 13, 2017:

Notes. Interviewed CAPT Nathan A. Laisure for an open position in the AROTC program. CAPT Laisure was approved unanimously for the open AROTC position.

CAPT Laisure will teach freshman AROTC students basic military customs and courtesy.

Committee members present:

J. Varner, Head URRC and Professor CBE
Charles Walcott, Member URRC and Professor NBE
Mike Duncan, Member URRC and Assoc. Professor CBE
Peter Loucks, Member URRC and Professor CEE
David Barber, CO-AROTC, LTC US Army
Juan Torress CO-AFROTC, LTC AFROTC
Erich Diehl, CO-NROTC CAPT USN

June 6, 2017:

Notes. Interviewed MAJ. Vinh Nguyen for an open position in the AROTC program and LT. Nore Habib for an open position in the NROTC unit. Both candidates were approved, however LT. Habib may be re-assigned to alternative duties. Thus, we will likely need to conduct an additional interview to fill the open NROTC position.

Committee members present:

J. Varner, Head URRC and Professor CBE
Mike Duncan, Member URRC and Assoc. Professor CBE
Charles Walcott, Member URRC and Professor NBE
Charles Aquadro, Member URRC and Professor MBG
Juan Torress, CO-AFROTC, LTC AFROTC
Erich Diehl, CO-NROTC CAPT USN
David Barber, CO-AROTC, LTC US Army