

Activity University-ROTC Relationships Committee (URRC)

Period: AY 2021 - 21

Report prepared by:

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Chair, URRC

URRC Committee Mission and Makeup

The URRC provides University oversight for hiring active military personnel that will serve as military instructors in the Cornell ROTC programs. The committee is composed of tenured Cornell faculty members from multiple colleges and the head (and executive officer) of each service branch as a courtesy.

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. The service branches extensively vet candidates before being interviewed by the URRC.

The URRC committee makeup for AY 2021 - 2022 (Cornell faculty):

Person	School	College
Jeffrey Varner (Chair)	Chemical & Biomolecular Engr.	ENG
Charles Aquadro	Molecular Biology & Genetics	A&S
T. Michael Duncan	Chem. & Biomolecular Eng.	ENG
Charles Walcott	Neurobiology & Behavior	CALS
Peter Loucks	Civil & Environmental Eng.	ENG
Bill Philpot	Civil & Environmental Eng.	ENG

The URRC committee makeup will change during AY 2022 - 2023. After several years of service, Prof. Varner is stepping down as the committee head and member.

Prof. Charles F. Aquadro will serve as the new chair of the committee. In addition, several new members were added to the committee. The new committee makeup can be found at: <https://theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/committees/standing-senate-committees/university-rotc-relationships-committee-urrc/>

URRC Committee Activities AY 2021 - 2022

The committee conducted three rounds of interviews during AY 2021 - 2022

1. Captain Scott A. Hardy (ROTC Navy) on 09/30/21 at 8 AM - 8:45 AM.

Location: NROTC Unit Wardroom (and Zoom)

Chair: J. Varner

Notes: A quorum of the committee was present, along with a representative from each service branch. The committee interviewed CAPT Hardy for the position of Commanding Officer (CO) of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) Unit, with the rank of Courtesy Professor of Naval Science at Cornell University.

CAPT Hardy was approved unanimously by the committee. He will be the replacement for CAPT Roach, who is being reassigned after completing this duty assignment.

2. Major (Promotable) Stephen M. Mallory (ROTC Army) on 11/17/21 at 1 PM - 2 PM

Location: Zoom

Chair: J. Varner

Notes: A quorum of the committee was present, along with a representative from each service branch. The committee interviewed MAJ Mallory for the Commanding Officer (CO) position of the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (AROTC) Unit, with the rank of Courtesy Professor of Military Science at Cornell University.

MAJ Mallory was approved unanimously by the committee. He will be the replacement for LTC Tully, who is being reassigned after completing this duty assignment.

3. Three candidates for three open positions in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Unit were interviewed on 01/10/22 from 1 PM - 3 PM: MAJ Joshua Stevens, MAJ Derek Hall, and LTC Joshua Kirkum

Location: Zoom

Chair: Charles F. Aquadro (J.Varner was traveling).

Notes: A quorum of the committee was present, along with a representative from each service branch. The committee interviewed the three AFROTC candidates on Zoom (30 min brief was given by each candidate, followed by questions).

All candidates were approved unanimously by the committee. Each candidate will fill an open Instructor position in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Unit starting in AY 2022 - 2023.

For each case, appointment documentation was signed by the committee chair and the corresponding service branch representative and filed with the Dean of the University Faculty.

Additional business

In addition to interviewing candidates for open positions, Dean De Rosa, the URRRC committee chair, Varner, and members of each service branch met (via Zoom) on 12/13/21 to discuss the issue of the disparate treatment of ROTC course credits among Cornell's colleges.

No resolution was obtained at this initial meeting. However, a follow-up meeting on 2/9/22 between Dean De Rosa, Prof. Varner, and Prof. Katherine McComas, Vice Provost for Engagement and Land-Grant Affairs, discussed strategies to address this issue. Thus, efforts are ongoing.