

TO: Staff and Faculty

FROM: MG Grizzle

DATE: 5 May 2020

Re: Week 6 Recap

Administration Note – To all, there is a Board meeting scheduled for May 15th at 1300. Several items will be on the agenda. First of course will be the confirmation of graduates. The next are several financial matters. The Budget Adjustment Report (BAR) will be presented and need to be approved. Next will be the 20/21 operating budget. Next will be a discussion and a resulting conclusion about fees for the 20/21 school year, taking into consideration all of the potential situations that may exist. For example, we believe we will have some Cadets start the semester in the same posture as we are in now. What should they be charged for true online education? Some may arrive during the semester based on travel restrictions. There will also be some age waivers necessary. Notice of the meeting has to be filed today. The agenda has to be posted 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Commandant – Room clearing is the priority. We must get this completed while we have the compliment of the Commandant's Staff to assist. As of today we have 89 rooms cleared, approximately 170 Cadets. JROTC has most items accounted for with the exception of some rifles. SROTC started picking up their equipment. All Corps issued items – Sam Brown belts, sabers, swords, guidons and colors are accounted for. Additional concerns: Room keys – when we left we thought we were leaving for Spring Break, all Cadets took their room keys with them. Room keys must be included in the returned items from the Cadets, text books, computers, etc. Text books – some books are being found in rooms, others are with Cadets and will need to be returned with laptops. Library materials – Books and other materials that were checked out from the library will need to be accounted for and returned. Communication continues with Regimental and Squadron staffs. Discussion emphasis is first and foremost, completing academic requirements. Graduates must have current contact information in the Registrar's office. Cadets need to communicate any online education problems so the respective Faculty member can be made aware of the issue. Property accountability. Encourage Corps leaders, at all levels, to stay in touch with their subordinates; stay informed of important updates, and maintain their unit integrity and camaraderie.

Facilities – Work has resumed on Cahoon Armory. The latrine renovation is waiting on input from the Engineer. The bowling alley renovation is being delayed because the majority of the equipment is coming from an international source. Apparently most bowling equipment in the world is not made in the US. Safety and Security dollars are being tied up with a CES contract so they are not subjected to be swept when the Legislature goes back into special session.

Academics – Today we will complete the taping for graduation of all of the individuals here on Post. The Valedictorian and Salutation speeches have been taped. With grades still not posted from finals, we have three or four potential candidates for these awards in each division (HS or JC). All potential winners have been taped. We are waiting on the video from our guest speaker and COL Paul will be filmed via Zoom for his introduction of the guest speaker. We will be surveying Cadets, Faculty and Staff as to the online education process. What did we do well? What did we do badly? What did we

overlook? How was the support from NMMI, IT or otherwise? We had an extensive discussion about recovery of grades for those whose performance declined under the online education format, primarily in math. The transition to online education has been challenging for everyone. The majority of the Cadets have logged into classes as scheduled, attempted to do all of the work and remain current. However, for some it has been a challenge. Grades have declined from mid-term regardless of the effort put forth by the Cadet and the Faculty. In view of this we have arrived at the following approach to the issue. We will extend the ability to drop a class and take a "W" until May 12th. If a Cadet was passing the course at Mid-Term and is now failing, we will enter a "P" in their records. This indicates the Cadet has passed the course. The course will count for meeting graduation criteria. If a Cadet took a "W" or received a "P" they will have the opportunity to enroll in an approved class over the summer and transfer in a letter grade to compensate the "P" with an actual letter grade that would be used in the calculation of GPA. This option does not apply to a class that was withdrawn from before Mid-Term. The second issue in Academics is training for our Faculty in true online education. The Dean is working with his counter-part at ENMU-R for them to develop a two week course for our Faculty. Judy estimates the cost to make the training mandatory for all Faculty and for the Commandant's staff would be \$200,000 to \$250,000. The reason is we will have to extend their contracts if we make the training mandatory. What Judy is recommending, and I agreed to and approved, would be to make the training optional, we would pay ENMU-R on an individual basis for conducting the training. The cost would come from the Faculty Development Grant fund. Then the Faculty member could use the training for credit on the Faculty pay scale.

Admissions – Applications are down from last year at this time but Accepts continues to be above the number at the same time last year. We are receiving less applications but obviously they are quality applicants for the Accepts to continue at a high rate. A very broad projection for beginning head count would be a low of 700 and a high of 850. Not sure what the mix of online and in residence would be, but believe we will have some online to start the year based on domestic or international travel restrictions.

Senior ROTC – Before I start this update, I will ask all that receive the weekly update to please carefully read all of the content. Last week I reported that we had seven Cadets request to return to NMMI and be commissioned in Pearson. We are working with the State and the guidelines we are under to attempt to accommodate their request. From that information, someone went out on social media and made a big deal out of the fact, they thought because they did not read everything, that we were "only" commissioning seven Lieutenant's. I had to go out on social media and try to dispel this remark. Tonight on our Alumni conference call, I will correct the remark again. The real number we are commissioning, again assuming everyone meets all graduation and commissioning requirements will be 27. Which is exactly our mission assigned by US Army, Cadet Command.

Alumni – We have cancelled all school sponsored events at this point except for the ATV event in August. We hope that some of the travel restrictions that have been placed on state employees will be eased or eliminated and we can travel to some of the planned Alumni events in different cities. The first will be Dallas the first weekend in June. If the hosts still want to and are able based on any Texas restrictions, to have the event, we will drive there and participate. I will put this update here instead of Academics. We will graduate 78 High School Cadets and 104 Junior College Cadets this Saturday. Add this to our December graduates and we will have a total of 205 for the school year. This is very

consistent with our numbers for the last few years. We have been graduating 200 to 220 very consistently.

Athletics – Jose Barron and I participated in a conference call with our Texas League football conference. We exchanged status reports with each other and talked about the multitude of possibilities we all face in regard to starting football in the fall. The NCAA, NJCAA and NAIA are all working together to arrive at a common position that all schools will follow. The high school program, governed by the New Mexico Athletic Association, has postponed any meetings or announcements until May 28th. We believe we will start our athletic programs in our usual time frame.

State Funding - I participate in a weekly call of all community college President's. Today we received a briefing from David Abbey, the fulltime Executive Director of the Legislative Finance Committee. David briefed the group that the state is experiencing a \$2.0 billion shortfall. The revenue has declined 26%. The state started the budget process for FY20/21 with a 25% reserve. In addition the Federal recovery plan has pushed \$1.0 billion into the state treasury. The challenge right now is the language for spending the money requires that it only be spent for expenses directly related to the impact and effects of COVID-19. What David is asking all President's to support is the ability to use the money to cover revenue shortfall. He asked each of us to contact our Federal delegation members and lobby them to try to get the language changed so this money can be used to cover revenue shortfalls. He does believe we will have a Special Legislative session in late June.

Parents - I am addressing this last section directly to the Parents to deal with some questions that are being asked.

Refunds – We previously announced that refunds would be calculated and applied for board and laundry. Each Cadet and family have an account balance with NMMI. That balance is different depending on the payment arrangements that were made at the beginning of the school year. Throughout the year different charges and credits are applied to each individual account. We must finish the semester before each account will receive a full reconciliation and any credits issued to the account. Once the reconciliation has been completed, if there is an overall credit balance, a check will be issued or a credit applied to the fall semester. If the reconciliation concludes that a balance is due NMMI, after all credits have been applied, a final bill will be sent to the Cadet and Parents.

Payments – Parents I ask you to continue to make your payments in accordance with your individual plan. Please read the above about refunds and not withhold your regularly scheduled payment because you know there will be a refund.

CARES – We have received the money dedicated to go to our Junior College Cadets under this act. There are provisions that have to be met before any funds can be distributed. Priority goes to Pell grant recipients, then all other JC Cadets. This fund cannot go to International Cadets.

Once again, thanks to everyone involved in supporting us during this unusual times.

MG Grizzle