

ROTC SENATE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 25, 2008

[In these minutes: Navy Brief, Air Force Brief, Army Brief, Naval ROTC Association of Colleges and Universities Meeting Update]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University Senate or Twin Cities Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Paul Ruden (chair), Michael Conway, Joel Fortenberry, Duane Nestor, Robert McMaster, Shawn Curley, Dave Ghere, Perry Leo

REGRETS: Joan Howland

OTHERS ATTENDING: Gary Mundfrom

I). Professor Ruden called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

II). CAPT Duane Nestor provided the committee with a Navy ROTC (NROTC) briefing. Copies of his PowerPoint presentation were distributed to members. Presentation highlights included:

- NROTC mission: “To develop midshipmen morally, mentally and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor and loyalty in order to commission college graduates as officers.”
- Currently, there are 76 students in the program, which is the same as last year. The numbers are expected to be the same going forward too. Nineteen students are expected to graduate this spring. As the Navy is downsizing to 330,000 members, the Marine Corp is increasing its members from 180,000 to 202,000 nationally.
- CAPT Nestor announced that he has received his retirement orders, but his retirement is contingent on a relief being identified. Also departing in the summer of 2009 will be one lieutenant and one staff sergeant. NROTC is currently fully staffed, which includes an employee paid for by the University. The other NROTC staff are federal employees.
- NROTC student economic impact on the University is just over \$1 million.
- Summer/fall 2008 NROTC highlights included:
 - Triennial unit inspection.
 - Military competition in Wisconsin in October and there will be another competition in either Memphis or Villanova in spring 2009. At the Wisconsin competition, the University NROTC program placed first in the Endurance Team Race and first in Color Guard Drill. In addition, the program placed third in the Platoon Drill and Squad Drill.

- Community Service events include but are not limited to Twin Cities Marathon support, Junior ROTC Drill Meet judging, Adopt-A-Highway, HOPE DAY event, Veteran's Appreciation Day.
- Two students, MIDN John Raleigh and MIDN Shalinda Sprehn, received scholarships outside of ROTC this fall.
- The NROTC placed first in the University of Minnesota Joint Military Athletic Challenge.
- Several guest speakers have attended the Naval Laboratory, which are held every Tuesday from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. At these labs, students learn about the NROTC tradition, history, programs and policies. Examples of speakers included but were not limited to General Regner, Regent Dean Johnson, Mr. William Wesley, and the USS Topeka, SSN – 754 Commanding Officer. There are plans to bring in RADM Wisecup, RDML Sharpe and LT General Dunford this spring.
- Two students will be commissioned on December 19, one Navy and one Marine Corp.
- The program has adequate funding from both the University and the federal government.
- The physical condition of the Armory remains a concern.
- The NROTC will be focusing on increasing its technical majors as well as increasing the diversity of the program.

A member asked about the breakdown of NROTC students by college? CAPT Nestor stated he doesn't have this information but that he can get it and share it with the committee. He added that the NROTC goal is to have 65% of its students with a technical major. Historically, however, the program has fallen short of this goal. There is a push on to change this and to get as close as possible to the 65% goal. Pending approval, there is talk about giving a higher stipend to students with technical majors.

III). LTC Conway provided the committee with an Army ROTC briefing. Copies of his PowerPoint presentation were distributed to members. Presentation highlights included:

- Army ROTC mission: "To commission the future officer leadership of the U.S. Army and motivate young people to be better citizens."
- The Army ROTC is switching to a new brigade, the 3rd Brigade following a brigade reorganization. The new brigade structure creates super brigades. The Army ROTC will fall under the 3rd Brigade Great Lakes Naval Station, which will be comprised of 40 schools rather than 20 schools. This new structure will likely force the schools to be more self-sufficient and autonomous.
- Cadre personnel currently number 15.
- As of April 2008, cadets totaled 128. The number of cadets has increased by 60 since the spring of 2006 when cadets numbered 68. This increase in cadets can be attributed to two primary reasons, increased recruitment and abundance of scholarships.
- Currently, Army ROTC scholarship dollars total just over a \$1 million for the University and affiliate schools.
- Battalion training information was shared with members, e.g., welcome back BBQs, Leadership Labs.

- University contributions and incentives to the Army ROTC include but are not limited to a University budget and employees, campus presence and voice, some affiliate schools provide room and board to ROTC scholarship cadets. If at all possible, noted LTC Conway, it would be great if at some point the University could explore providing room and board for its ROTC scholarship students.
- The Army ROTC contributes to the University and the community, e.g., Veteran's Stadium Committee, Veteran's Advisory Committee, Color Guard for Athletic Department events, St. Thomas Academy and Cretin-Derham Hall Inspections, Science Fair, Color Guards for various community events.
- The University Army ROTC program received 1st place in 2007 and 2nd place in 2008 for the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America Award, which is given to the best overall battalion in Cadet Command.
- General Casey (Army Chief of Staff) attended the spring 2008 commissioning. The Army ROTC will continue to schedule high-profile, motivational speakers at these events.
- Aspects of the physical condition of the Armory remain a concern, e.g., the rifle range, window replacements.

In summary, LTC Conway stated that cadet numbers are growing and there are a lot of opportunities for Army ROTC students. The program is making a concerted effort to be visible both on campus and in the community.

Questions from members included:

- Besides nursing, what other fields are the Army targeting? A number of new initiatives are emphasizing foreign language study, e.g., Arabic, Chinese, Swahili. The foreign language push is a Secretary of Defense initiative for all the services.
- Where will the December field training take place? The field training will take place on December 6 in the Field House.
- Please collect room and board data so it can be shared with Provost Sullivan so the conversation about room and board for ROTC scholarship students can begin.
- What is the problem with the Armory gym floor? The gym floor has a structural problem. Above and beyond the fact the floor is too thin to sand, the floor's structural problem has made it necessary to institute weight restrictions/limits on the floor.

IV). LTC Fortenberry provided the committee with an Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) briefing. Copies of his PowerPoint presentation were distributed to members.

Presentation highlights included:

- Air Force ROTC mission: "Develop the best Air Force leaders and citizens of character, dedicated to serving the Nation."
- The University's AFROTC program is unintentionally overstaffed by two cadre. Five cadre are authorized.
- Air Force Institute of Technology and the fall 2008 cadet organizational chart information was shared.

- Student/cadet accomplishments included but were not limited to: 10 cadets have a greater than 3.5 GPA and 9 have a GPA greater than 3.0, 100% graduation rate in five years or less, 26 cadets on full scholarship.
- Unit cadet numbers are not strong. The University Air Force ROTC program plans to advertise its opportunities more aggressively. The goal over the next three years is to bring 25 new students into the program each year. (Unlike the other branches, the St. Thomas Air Force ROTC program is a completely different unit from the University's ROTC program, making competition stiff. The St. Thomas program is almost twice the size of the University AFROTC program, but their program also includes the Minneapolis/St. Paul satellite campuses in their numbers.)
- As of September 2008, about half of the contract cadet wing is contractually committed to coming on active duty.
- For viability reasons, the program should commission 15 cadets per year. The University AFROTC program expects to commission 2 cadets in December and 9 more cadets in the spring. Viability is a political hot topic for the Air Force.
- With respect to the high school Air Force scholarship program, nationwide about 12,000 applicants are received annually and about 2,000 are selected. One in five applicants list the University of Minnesota as their first choice school. The University AFROTC program also has the authority to award one scholarship directly to a student so that person does not have to compete with other scholarship applicants. The Air Force's Express Scholarships are non-competitive and reflect where the Air Force's needs are, e.g., computer engineering, electrical engineering, bio-environmental engineering, nursing, Russian and Asian languages and literature.

Questions from members included:

- Does St. Thomas offer engineering programs? They have a couple engineering programs, e.g., manufacturing engineering.
- Was the St. Thomas program smaller at one time? Anecdotally, stated LTC Fortenberry, the subsidy is a driving factor for many students. The Air Force pays for scholarship student's tuition and St. Thomas pays for their room and board.
- What is the Air Force goal in terms of technical majors? LTC Fortenberry will find out and report back.
- What is the ROTC relationship with alumni in this area? There is a ROTC alumni group in the area - <https://www.umnrotcalumnissociety.org/content.php?id=38>. This group is becoming increasingly more active.

Professor Ruden thanked CAPT Nestor, LTC Conway and LTC Fortenberry for their respective briefings.

V). Professor Ruden took the last few minutes of the meeting to provide members with a Naval ROTC Association of Colleges and Universities meeting update. This year's meeting was hosted by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida. Rear Admiral Clifford Sharpe, commander of the NSTC (Naval Service Training Command), presented at the meeting.

At this meeting, noted Professor Ruden, attendees were informed that the Navy is looking to commission 380 Marine Corp annually by FY2011, which is a very ambitious goal. This year 275 Marine Corp were commissioned. The other key item that was shared was that the Navy would like to have 65% technical graduates/majors.

A member asked whether the branches interact with local community colleges. CAPT Nestor noted that given the appetite for technical majors there has been a push to collaborate with community colleges.

Professor Ruden went on to report that he also got the impression from this meeting that Rear Admiral Sharpe intends to push hard on diversity. He wants to improve the Navy's effectiveness when it comes to recruiting minorities.

VI). Other business: Vice Provost McMaster requested the branches let him know if there are any climate issues for ROTC students on campus. He noted that there have been climate issues for other groups of students and cited the example of student athletes. Vice Provost McMaster stated that there have been a few incidents in which some faculty have intentionally made it difficult for athletes to go to games. None of the three branches reported hearing any issues along these lines, but assured Vice Provost McMaster that they would let him know if they heard anything.

VII). Hearing no further business, Professor Ruden thanked members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate