

ROTC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 1, 2014

[In these minutes: Army Brief, Air Force Brief, Navy Brief]

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

PRESENT: Joan Howland, (chair), Thomas Brothen, Dustin Harris, David Hoopes, Justin Krueger, Robert McMaster, Perry Leo, Paul Ruden

REGRETS: Leonard Polakiewicz

1. ARMY BRIEFING

Professor Howland called the meeting to order, welcomed all those present and called for introductions.

Lt Col Dustin Harris provided the committee with an Army ROTC update and highlighted the following points using a PowerPoint presentation:

- The Army ROTC has a total of 17 Cadre (Staff); 9 Officers/NCO's, 4 DA Civilians, 2 Contractors, and 2 University Employees. Since the last subcommittee meeting, two of the contract positions were eliminated. These were replaced with one officer CPT Gardner and one NCO SSG Thorn from the Active Army.
- The Cadet Corps is 125 strong.
 - Of the 126, 82 are on contract with 76 of those on Scholarship (13 Reserves, and 38 Guard).
- Summer Training
 - Leadership Development Assessment Course
 - Airborne and Air Assault School
 - Internships
 - Cultural Understanding and Language Program
- Accession & Branching
 - Based on their grades and overall performance as a Cadet, they were assessed into the Active, Reserve or Guard Component with 2 graduating in December and 23 graduating in May.
 - For accessions and branching, only 2 of our Cadets did not get the component they wanted, and 89% received one of their top 3 branches of choice (Infantry, Engineer, Aviation, Field Artillery, etc.).
- Upcoming Multi-service or Joint Events
 - Joint Service Review – April 11, 2015
 - Senior Dinner – May 2, 2015
 - Commissioning - May 22, 2015

Members then had the following questions:

- Do engineering students struggle to complete in 4 years?
 - It is challenging because of the 128 engineering credits with additional ROTC credits. Some of the students enter with credits from high school, which is helpful. They try to be as flexible as possible with consideration for individual course schedules. A military kinesiology class is also offered for credit.
- Air Force students are limited to three non-traditional courses per year.
- 90 of 126 Army students are U of M students.

The following points were discussed:

- Improvements to the Armory have been made, however lead abatement and floor replacement is still needed.
- A letter has been sent to President Kaler regarding improvements that need to be made to the Armory.
- Access to the RecWell Field House– How can the use of the Field House facility be made more efficient?
 - Members discussed the issue and the decision was made to recommend to the Office for Student Affairs that keys are provided to the ROTC branch leaders.

2. AIR FORCE BRIEFING

Lt Col David Hoopes provided the committee with an Air Force ROTC update and highlighted the following points using a PowerPoint presentation:

- Detachment 415 Historical Enrollment and Commissioned Totals
 - Though enrollment is lower this year, it is not expected that to decrease next year.
 - 9 Graduates/ new 2d Lts AY 13-14
 - 1 Nurse (Distinguished Graduate)
 - 5 Pilots
 - Nationwide voluntary leave option was offered to seniors, which two engineering students exercised this option. There were enough voluntary leaves so involuntary cuts were not needed.
- Current Cadet Breakdown
 - GPAs are in the top 20% nationwide and almost 605 students are on scholarship.
- Highlights of Detachment 415
 - 100+ years of the Armory, speaks to a rich history
 - Experience of interaction with other branches is an experience unique to the U of M
- Future Events
 - Cadet Wing Change of Command – December 8, 2014
 - Basketball Tourney at Notre Dame – February 28-March 1, 2015

- Challenges
 - Accession numbers are going down
 - ROTC Commission limit is firm nationwide at 1350. There are three sources of a commission to the Air Force:
 - OTS
 - ROTC
 - Air Force Academy
 - Locally
 - Was previously concerned with crime in the area because cadets are on campus late, but it has not seemed to be as much of an issue this year.

3. NAVY BRIEFING

CDR Jason Krueger provided the committee with an Naval ROTC (NROTC) update and highlighted the following points using a PowerPoint presentation:

- The U of M NROTC Student
 - Selected by a rigorous and thorough selection process
 - Competitive far beyond just academic excellence
 - National averages: 1396 SAT (1250 USMC), 88% STEM majors, 82% top 20% HS Class
- Captain Curtis Gilbert will be the Professor of Naval Science and Commanding Officer beginning in July 2015.
- NROTC Battalion
 - 54 Students: 41 U of M; 13 St. Thomas
 - Average Cum GPA: 3.24
- U of M NROTC Metrics
 - Over last 3 semesters only 3 of 46 scholarship students were “Drop on Request.”
- New Student Orientation
 - Integrated more with the U of M’s Welcome Week and this will be continued.
- Fall 2014 Special Events
 - Mike Evans, USAA-Education Foundation representative, speaks to students about financial responsibility for education and future finances.
- Future NROTC Special Events
 - Change of Command – December 9, 2014
 - University of Colorado – Boulder Drill Meet – March 6-8, 2015

Members then discussed the following points:

- In NROTC, there is a 4-year national scholarship earned by high school seniors. As a college freshman, you can compete for the national scholarship, or the Advanced Standing College Program, which includes a stipend, but does not provide a scholarship. Those without scholarships are not treated differently in regard to receiving placement after graduation.

4. GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Armory will need a significant renovation/remodeling, and the building does not meet ADA requirements. The Armory is University property and it is the 7th oldest building on campus. It was agreed that a meeting of the interested members of the subcommittee perhaps should be held in January or February with a focus on how to obtain funds for improving the Armory facility. Members agreed that at a future meeting it might help to have a guest speaker(s) who could offer strategies for fundraising.

Hearing no other business, Professor Howland thanked those present for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Jeannine Rich
University Senate