

ROTC SENATE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 28, 2005

[In these minutes: Announcements, Army Brief, Air Force Brief, Navy Brief, Armory Update, Grade Inflation]

[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: Jo-Ida Hansen (chair) Captain Jim Coulson, Colonel Henry Gilman, Major Rick Johnson, Craig Swan, Dave Ghere, Ken Roering, Paul Ruden

I). Professor Hansen called the meeting to order.

II). Professor Hansen thanked Colonel Henry Gilman for his service on the Senate ROTC Subcommittee over the past few years. Colonel Gilman is being transferred to Hawaii.

III). Major Johnson provided members with an Army brief. The following information was highlighted:

- Twelve cadets will be commissioned in May, three cadets will be commissioned at the end of the summer and one cadet will be commissioned in January 2006.
- Four of the commissioned cadets will be in the National Guard/Reserves and the rest will be on active duty.

IV). Colonel Gilman provided members with an Air Force brief. He noted the following:

- An inspection of the detachment was conducted in February. The detachment received an overall excellent rating with a couple areas receiving outstanding ratings (outstanding is the highest rating given). The "excellent" rating was the highest score given to any school this year.
- Colonel Douglas Ballinger will join the program in early June and will replace Colonel Gilman. The program will also be receiving another officer who has yet to be nominated.
- Five students will be commissioned in May. The tri-service commissioning date is May 20th. These students all have assignments.
- On Saturday, April 30th there will be a parade at 10:00 in the Field House. Then, later that evening, the Tri-Service Ball will be held at the Radisson Hotel Metrodome.

V). Captain Coulson provided members with a Navy brief. The following information was highlighted:

- Captain Coulson attended the PNS conference in January and also sat on the National ROTC Scholarship Board this year.
- In February, a civilian guest speaker spoke to the battalion about the civilian nuclear power industry. Also in February, Captain Coulson participated in the National Scholarship Production Board.

- Friday Night at the Movies was instituted. This voluntary portion of the curriculum is being used to facilitate discussions around ethical issues. Additionally, it is being used as a team-building tool.
- A new instructor, Captain Bill Fenwick, will join the program in May.
- Captain Coulson was chosen to participate in career orientation training program for midshipmen, which will be conducted in southern California this summer.
- In March, midshipmen conducted a very successful blood drive (65 pints).
- A POW guest speaker was brought in to lecture on the code of conduct and a former Navy JAG Officer spoke on ethics.
- Four officers were commissioned in December 2004 and one in April. Nineteen additional officers will be commissioned in May and two more at the end of summer session.
- The Joint Military Athletic Competition (JMAC) was held earlier this month.
- A Navy supply staff member retired.
- The ROTC Alumni Dinner was held earlier this month.

VI). Next, Captain Coulson provided members with an Armory update. Packets of information on this topic were distributed for members to review. A letter dated 1998 from former Vice President for Student Development and Athletics McKinley Boston to members of the Capital Improvements Advisory Committee was underscored. In this letter Mr. McKinley notes the Armory's myriad of building code, ADA compliance, and fire and life safety shortcomings.

Questions from members following Captain Coulson's update:

- How is the University's ROTC program treated relative to other institutions across the country? It is difficult to compare, but there are some institutions, including public institutions, whose ROTC programs receive a lot of money e.g. Ohio State, University of California at Berkeley.
- What strategies do other ROTC programs use to get money? Captain Coulson has asked this same question and said it really depends on the support the program receives from its respective institution.

The issue of the Armory's closed firing range was also noted. Captain Coulson stressed the importance of giving students firearm experience. Currently, University students use civilian ranges in the State to get this experience.

A member suggested the ROTC program work with the University Foundation to tap into the ROTC alumni pool as a way to raise money for the Armory's renovation. EVPP Swan noted that the model used by the University Foundation to raise money for the University assigns students to their graduating college. Members spent time discussing this issue further as well as other fund-raising strategies.

On June 1 at 3:30 Captain Coulson will meet with University Services Vice President Kathleen O'Brien to discuss the Armory's problems and what can be done to correct them. Anyone interested in attending this meeting with Captain Coulson should let him know. Captain Coulson's efforts to make the Armory a capital priority were recognized.

VII). EVPP Swan noted that SCEP is addressing the issue of grade inflation where certain courses give out an excessive number of A's. In these instances the A – F grading system may not be the most appropriate and maybe the S/N grading system should be considered.

EVPP Swan will pull together more information on this issue and share it with the Subcommittee at its next meeting in the fall.

VIII). Professor Hansen announced that she has agreed to chair the Subcommittee next year. She went on to thank EVPP Swan and Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, for their administrative support to the Subcommittee. Hearing no further business, Professor Hansen adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate