

ROTC SENATE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2006

[In these minutes: Review Committee Charge, Navy Brief, Army Brief, Air Force Brief, Spring Semester Agenda Items]

[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), Douglas Ballinger, Curt Cooper, Jim Coulson, Craig Swan, Dave Ghere, Marti Hope Gonzales

REGRETS: Ken Roering

I). Professor Ruden called the meeting to order and asked all those present to introduce themselves.

II). Professor Ruden distributed copies of the subcommittee's charge for members to review. He noted that the ROTC Subcommittee is an advisory committee to the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) and to the administration.

One of the responsibilities of the subcommittee is to review all commissioned officer nominations for appointments to the faculties of the ROTC departments and to make recommendations for approval of qualified candidates to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Due to the short-term nature of ROTC faculty appointments at the University, and, as a result, the high amount of turnover on the subcommittee, Professor Ruden suggested members discuss the most expeditious way to facilitate the processing of officer nominations. The following mechanisms were suggested:

1. Each military branch should establish a process for documenting what information needs to be included in a nomination packet, so that when turnover occurs within a department the information for assembling a nomination packet is readily at hand.
2. A cover letter from the military branch requesting approval of a nomination packet should be sent to the chair of the ROTC Subcommittee.
3. The chair of the ROTC Subcommittee will disseminate the nomination packet to the appropriate members of the subcommittee.
4. In the event that a nominated officer does not have an advanced degree, or is not currently pursuing an advanced degree, the ROTC Subcommittee chair will work with the subcommittee's representative from the Office of Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost to determine the admissibility of the candidate to a University of Minnesota graduate program.
5. Final approval/disapproval of an officer nomination can be conducted over email in lieu of a signed hardcopy form, assuming the member has the technical capability to do this.

In terms of the subcommittee's membership, Professor Ruden pointed out that the charge specifies that the ex-officio membership of the subcommittee will include at least 3 student members who serve as ROTC Battalion Commanders. Each of the three ROTC department heads agreed to recruit student members from each of their respective military branches. It was also noted that the Air Force does not have Battalion Commanders, but Wing Commanders. The subcommittee's charge will be corrected to reflect this oversight.

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

- A new Marine Officer Instructor was hired in the spring of 2005.
- The University's Submarine Lieutenant resigned his commission effective the end of spring term 2006. His relief has already been identified.
- The unit grew by 15 students. The unit would have grown by more, but one sophomore and five freshmen were accepted at and decided to attend the United States Naval Academy.
- A new Instructor Billet has been approved and will report in January 2006.
- The unit will soon be staffed at 100%.
- Captain Coulson co-facilitated the national ROTC training program that was held on the West Coast over the summer.
- Captain Coulson is a finalist for the course coordinator position for the Naval Reserve Officers Leadership and Ethics training program.
- A Lieutenant at the University of Minnesota was selected to be the national course coordinator for weapons and engineering.
- There were no major discrepancies on the unit evaluations.
- The unit had three student resignations within the first week of school this semester.
- Several guest speakers have been brought in to motivate and educate ROTC students e.g. Dick Saliterman, former JAG officer under President Ford, retired Brigadier General George Schulstad, former POW Captain Arv Chauncey, Rear Admiral Barry McCullough, etc.
- The three units co-sponsored several activities/fund-raisers e.g. a blood drive, 9/11 color guard, coat drive for a local homeless shelter, etc.
- ROTC students work very hard, often 18+ hour days. Unfortunately, many ROTC courses do not fit well into the University of Minnesota schedule. Often ROTC courses need to be taught around the University's schedule e.g. 6 a.m. courses, etc.
- In June, Vice President Kathleen O'Brien and facilities personnel toured and discussed the state of the Armory. The Army, Navy, and Air Force are appreciative of the Armory's new roof. The three units, however, continue to be concerned about the lack of a firing range and fire safety issues in the building. It is the goal of those that occupy the Armory to raise its profile so that it will stay on the radar of those responsible for capital improvements.

IV). Lieutenant Colonel Cooper provided members with an Army brief. The following information was highlighted:

- The program's mission is to commission the future officer leadership of the U.S. Army and motivate young people to be better citizens. The Army is a values-based organization.

- Current program enrollment is 68. Enrollment is down by 18; these 18 represent National Guard students that were deployed to Iraq in September. The University's ROTC demographics were shared with members.
- The University's contributions to the successful operation of the Army ROTC program include but are not limited to an executive administrative specialist, a shared Supply Technician with the Air Force, a University budget based on ROTC enrollment/tuition, a ROTC Alumni Association, Cadre tuition assistance, etc.
- In an attempt to fully staff its 272 ROTC units, the Army is hiring retired officers, and officers recently returning from active duty on a contractual basis. The University's Army ROTC Cadre personnel are staffed at 100%.
- Battalion training includes physical training and swimming lessons, leadership training, day/night land navigation training, etc.
- The University of Minnesota Golden Gophers' Battalion Army ROTC won the 11th brigade in the western region for the Ranger Challenge. Ranger Challenger is a two-day competition between 7 schools. Events for this competition include: physical fitness test, rope bridges, hand grenade throws, M16 qualifications, 10 mile road marches, etc.
- Cadet enrollment statistics, scholarship information, retention information, and Lieutenant Cooper's production goals for commissioning officers were shared with members.
- Seventeen Cadets will graduate from the program this year. Their average GPA is approximately 3.21. Six of these seventeen Cadets are ranked in the top 20% of the United States ROTC Cadets across the country, and 3 of the seventeen are ranked in the top 100 of all 3883 United States ROTC Cadets. Ten of these Cadets are expected to commission and serve on active duty and the others will serve in the Minnesota Army National Guard.

V). Major Ballinger provided members with an Air Force brief. The following information was highlighted:

- The vision of the Air Force – "Professional Cadre and Cadets building world class Air Force officers for tomorrow's Air and Space Force." The mission of the Air Force – "To educate, train and commission world class Air Force officers."
- Congress has mandated that the Air Force reduce its size. The mandated goal for FY 06 is 357,400 active duty personnel, down from 359,000. Currently, there is a surplus of active duty officers. Officers commissioned in 2002 and 2003 are being given the opportunity to voluntarily leave the Air Force. Another way the Air Force is reducing its size is by reducing various production requirements. In an attempt not to make leaving the Air Force mandatory, downsizing efforts are being phased-in.
- Air Force ROTC Commander's Conference enrollment numbers, scholarship information and accession goals were shared with members.
- New University Air Force ROTC personnel include: Major Doug Ballinger, Major Michael Huebsch, First Lieutenant Karley Amidon, and Captain Pat Marsh. The Air Force is not currently fully staffed. There is a need for one more enlisted billet.
- Four University ROTC students are enrolled in the Air Force Institute of Technology.
- Currently, there are 66 Cadets enrolled in the program; two of which are minority students. Overall GPA for all cadets is 3.2.
- Commissioning statistics:

- 2005 – 13
 - 2006 – 16
 - 2007 – 21
 - Fifty eight percent of Cadets currently enrolled have a technical major.
 - The Air Force is increasing its number of scholarship opportunities its students. The Air Force has earmarked \$201,640 in scholarship money for spring semester 2006.
 - An Operational Readiness Inspection was conducted on March 14 – 15, 2005. The purpose of this inspection was to:
 - Determine how effectively, efficiently and safely the ROTC mission is accomplished.
 - Assess compliance with laws, instructions and regulations.
 - Assess the emphasis placed on detection and prevention of fraud, waste and abuse in the program.
- The detachment received an overall grade of excellent (grading scale – outstanding, excellent, satisfactory, marginal, unsatisfactory):
- Training: Excellent
 - Cadet personnel actions: Outstanding
 - Recruiting: Outstanding
 - Unit support: Excellent
 - Cadet Financial Management: Excellent
 - Education: Excellent
 - Examples of Cadet events include, but are not limited to:
 - New Cadet orientation/High Ropes Confidence Course
 - POW/MIA vigil, which is held at the State Capitol
 - Field training exercise
 - Professional development training (summer after sophomore and junior years)
 - Combat Dining-In, which is a formal military dinner
 - Extracurricular activities:
 - Physical fitness training (three days per week, one hour sessions)
 - Drill team
 - Color Guard
 - Arnold Air Society
 - Various University societies and clubs
 - Northwest Region Commander Colonel Ernest Felts visited the program on November 15, 2005.

- VI). The following items were mentioned for the spring semester agenda:
- Update on the National Association of Navy ROTC Colleges and Universities annual meeting.
 - Command inspection updates.

VII). Hearing no further business, Professor Ruden adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate