

ROTC SENATE MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
MARCH 31, 2006

[In these minutes: Navy Brief, Army Brief, Air Force Brief, Board of Regents Reserve Officer Training Corps Policy, Miscellaneous Committee Business]

[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 Ghery, Marti Hope Gonzales, Jason Wittrock, Salina Leyk, Melissa Gallagher

REGRETS: Ken Roering

I). Professor Ruden called the meeting to order.

II). Captain Jim Coulson provided committee members with a Navy brief and highlighted the following:

- One of the Navy's Midshipman was identified as a Presidential Leadership Award winner, and another won the Olmstead Foundation Scholarship.
- Upcoming events/speakers include:
  - The Joint Service Review.
  - A visit by Rear Admiral Wisecup.
  - A visit by a Navy astronaut on April 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - The Chief of Naval Personnel will attend the Navy's birthday ball, which will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup>. This ball will be held on campus at the McNamara Alumni Center.
- During 2006 - 2007 academic year the Navy welcomed several notable guests including but not limited to: the Director of Service Warfare, the President of Leinenkugel Brewery, former POW Captain Arv Chauncey, etc.

Next, Captain Coulson introduced Midshipman Wittrock and Midshipman Leyk who were invited to provide members with a presentation on what it means to be a Midshipman. With the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation, they conveyed the following information:

- Difficulties associated with coordinating class schedules, workout schedules and military instruction schedules. In response to this information, members spent time discussing the scheduling problem faced by ROTC students. It was mentioned that priority registration is a very sensitive and controversial issue at the University. Therefore, instead of recommending that priority registration be given to ROTC students, that blocked scheduling with reserved seating be considered. Then, in terms of the suggestion that there be course sections reserved for ROTC students only, this idea also has far-reaching implications, which need to be thoroughly thought through. Captain Coulson indicated

he looks forward to further discussions around this matter so that this issue can be resolved.

- Annual events that the unit participates in e.g. blood drive, coat drive, Habitat for Humanity, metro track meet, exhibition drill, etc. Vice Provost Swan suggested consulting with University Relations around inviting Eric Perkins (Perk at Play) from KARE 11 as a way to bring visibility to the exhibition drill team.
- Examples of required activities include drill periods, battalion PT, squad PT, night duty, color guard practice, etc.
- Traditional activities include Navy & Marine Corp birthdays, Dining-In, Joint Military Athletic Competition (JMAC).
- Joint service traditions: review and ball, award ceremonies, commissioning.

Before moving on, Professor Ghre reminded members that General College is closing, and will become a department within the College of Education and Human Development. In the past, General College primarily served at-risk students, but now will be changing its focus to serve a cross-section of University students. With this said, it is uncertain how successful this department will be at attracting students, but he noted it would be great to see Midshipmen and Cadets enrolled in these courses.

III). Lieutenant Colonel Curt Cooper provided committee members with an Army brief and highlighted the following:

- In some instances, the Army addresses student scheduling conflicts by providing one-on-one instruction.
- The mission of the Army is to commission future officer leadership of the U.S. Army and motivate young people to be better citizens.
- Cadre personnel numbers have increased. Since spring 2005, two human resource assistants (HRA) and one instructor has been added.
- The number of veterans that are interested in attending the University this fall is on the increase. On a related note, Vice Provost Swan made members aware of legislation that would call upon the University to offer resident tuition for all veterans regardless of whether they are a Minnesota resident or not.
- Unlike the Navy and Air Force, the Army is growing. Additionally, Minnesota's Army National Guard has reorganized, and increased the number of Minnesota positions by approximately 4,000.
- As of January 1, 2006 the Army now pays for all tuition and fees, irrespective of the institution an individual chooses to attend. In the past, there was a cap of \$20,000. Also, Cadet stipends have increased.
- Army Cadet enrollment as of spring 2006 stands at 72, up from 53 in the spring of 2005.
- The Army needs more nurses.
- In terms of demographics, the Army ROTC program mirrors the University population. Females in the Army ROTC are growing as a percentage of the population.
- The Command Inspection Program was conducted this year with the Army exceeding standards in four of the six areas and meeting standards in the remaining two categories.
- Major spring events include but are not limited to monthly Combat Water Survival Testing (CWST), regular leadership labs, night land navigation course, JMAC, Tri-Service Review and Ball, leadership lab, Combat Lifesaver Training (CLS), etc.

- The Tri-Service Review and Formal will be held April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Guest speaker at the Review will be General Thomas Konitzer, the current president of the Army Aviation Association of America.
- The Tri-Service Commissioning will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Thirteen Cadets will be commissioned at this event (two cadets have already been commissioned earlier this spring).
- Summer training programs were shared with members.
- Examples of University contributions to the Army ROTC program include administrative support, University budget based on ROTC enrollment/tuition, ROTC Alumni Association, facilities maintenance/upgrades, etc.
- Sample Army ROTC contributions to the University and the surrounding community include service on the Veterans Stadium Committee, Color Guards for Athletic Department events, Comfort for Courage, Minnesota State Science Fair support, providing support for the State of Minnesota National Prayer Breakfast, etc. With respect to recognizing University students and staff that have served their country, Vice Provost Swan asked whether it would be possible to get these names. LTC Cooper indicated that the Veterans Stadium Committee is exploring the best way to recognize these individuals.
- A breakdown of scholarship information was shared with the committee.
- The Army ROTC recognizes that it could not operate without a University budget. With this said, however, the Army has requested an increase for FY 07 to cover general operating supplies, computers and related supplies, repair and upgrade of Army ROTC area, etc.
- The University of Minnesota has one of the best ROTC Battalions in the country. There are numerous opportunities for students as the program expands.

IV). Lieutenant Colonel Ballinger provided committee members with an Air Force brief and highlighted the following:

- The Air Force's vision and mission were shared.
- The Air Force is changing. Air Force personnel are being cut in light of a significant restructuring of its core specialties. Weapon systems such as the F117 and Stealth Fighter, among others, are being retired.
- There will be a reduction in FY 07/08 Air Force college scholarships.
- The Air Force is consolidating its field training facilities.
- The 2006 Air Force ROTC Commander's Conference has been rescheduled for 2007.
- Several non-field training related temporary duties have been cancelled for 2006.
- The Air Force is planning to close five non-viable Air Force ROTC detachments. The Air Force is exploring other options for closure and consolidation. As it currently stands, the University of Minnesota's Air Force ROTC program remains viable.
- Production targets and accession goals were shared.
- New personnel: Captain Melissa Gallagher, an Air Force executive officer, was introduced. Additionally, Captain Pat Marsh will be arriving in May, replacing Major Webster. The Air Force has also had two NCO positions open, one of which was recently filled.
- Enrollment is up slightly in the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT).

- Fifteen Cadets will be commissioned in 2006.
- Cadet events were noted with specific mention being given to visits by Colonel Ernst Felts, the Air Force ROTC Northwest Regional Commander, and Chief Master Sergeant Gerald R. Murray.

V). Vice Provost Swan reported that the Board of Regents is in the process of reviewing all of its policies. The purpose of this undertaking is to make the Board's policies more or less umbrella policies, intended to guide the administration in carrying out the minutia of its policies. The Board of Regents' policy impacting the ROTC is the Reserve Officer's Training Corps Policy. Provost Swan distributed copies of the current policy, which was adopted in 1970, as well as a draft of the revised policy, which is scheduled to go before the Board of Regents in June for information and in July for action.

Members took a few minutes to review the policies. A member suggested that the policy include a statement about the University's contract with each of the individual service units to emphasize that there are guidelines beyond this policy that govern the business relationship between the University and the ROTC service units. Vice Provost Swan will take this suggestion into consideration. He added that there is no intent to change the existing relationships with the service units, but rather to simply make the policy language more crisp and concise.

VI). Other business:

- Captain Coulson noted that all three military branches are continuing to feel the pressure related to the global war on terror. With this said, firearms training at the University continues to be an issue since the University closed the shooting range in the Armory. Qualifying with the 9mm pistol is now a requirement for commissioning. The war on terror has also caused personnel pressures for some service branches. The Navy, for example, has a larger Battalion than in previous years, while its staff has been reduced, and the University Naval Science budget has been frozen for three years.
- Vice Provost Swan provided information on the University's Founders Opportunity Program, which was established in 2005. He noted that the program matches all Pell awards that an incoming student from a family earning less than \$50,000 a year receives. Vice Provost Swan encouraged the service branches to feel free to represent this program to students when recruiting.
- In terms of recruiting, Lieutenant Colonel Cooper reported that the University of Minnesota ROTC and University Relations worked together to improve the University of Minnesota Army ROTC's website (<http://www1.umn.edu/arotc/>). Also, the Army is advertising in Facebook and at Mariucci Arena.
- In order to avoid duplicating efforts, Captain Coulson requested contact information for the individual(s) responsible for developing the University's avian flu plan to ensure the Naval Science Department's plan is coordinated with the University's plan. Vice Provost Swan will find out and get back to Captain Coulson to let him know the best person(s) to contact.

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

Renee Dempsey  
University Senate