

ROTC SENATE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2007

[In these minutes: Air Force Brief, Army Brief, Navy 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, LTC Douglas Ballinger, LTC Curt Cooper, CAPT Jim Coulson, Craig Swan, Dave Ghere, Marti Hope Gonzales, Joan Howland

ABSENT: Ken Roering

I). Professor Ruden called the meeting to order.

II). LTC Ballinger provided the committee with an Air Force brief and highlighted the following:

- Vision - ÒProfessional cadre and cadets building world-class Air Force officers for tomorrowÓs Air and Space Force.Ó
- Mission – ÒTo educate, train and commission world-class Air Force officers.Ó
- The Air Force is downsizing by approximately 40,000 personnel over the next few years. For the University of Minnesota program this means two less instructors in the 2007 – 2008 academic year. There are, however, other detachments that are in much worse condition than the University. Additionally, the Air Force plans to consolidate its field training camps in 2008.
- Air Force commissioning projections for 2007 are at just under 2,000.
- New and outgoing military personnel were noted.
- Currently 65 cadets are enrolled at the University, which includes six minority cadets. Sixty one percent of these cadets have technical majors and the average GPA of all cadets is 3.2.
- Results of the corps fitness trend are on the rise.
- Fall term cadet events included self defense training; Project Warrior (camping, leadership challenges, ropes courses); luncheon with the Board of Regents; winter social.
- Upcoming events: visit to Grand Forks, ND AFB; joint service athletic competition, joint service parade and review; joint service military ball; joint service commissioning and as an extracurricular activity there will be additional self –defense training.
- Staff training events: Field training for LTC Ballinger at Ellsworth AFB; field training for CAPT Marsh at Ellsworth AFB; and NCO (National Center for Outreach) training for SSgt Robinson.

III). LTC Cooper provided the committee with an Army brief and highlighted the following:

- Mission – ÒTo commission the future officer leadership of the U.S. Army and motivate young people to be better citizens.Ó LTC Cooper works in conjunction with his senior cadets to support the Junior ROTC program in six different high schools in the area; hence, the portion of the mission that references making young people to be better citizens.
- The Army is growing its numbers and is reorganizing from a division-based organization to a brigade-based organization, which means that power is being pushed down and out.
- Given the fact that the Army is in a recruiting mode and needs more officers, LTC Cooper has the authority to grant scholarships to qualified candidates.
- The Army is planning to graduate 4,100 and expects to commission 4,500.
- Currently, the University has a total of 11 Army cadre personnel, two of which are provided by the University. LTC Cooper expects his cadre to increase by two in the not too distant future.
- At present, there are 90 cadets in the program. This number has nearly doubled since the spring of 2004 when there were 43 cadets enrolled. LTC Cooper anticipates graduating 15 cadets this year, but that number will nearly double in the next few years, and this number (26 – 28) is expected to remain constant in the foreseeable future.
- The Army’s demographics in terms of ethnicity closely mirror that of the University. However, in terms of gender, the Army is male dominant, but increasingly the number of females is growing.
- 2006 cadet summer training options included: Airborne School, Air Assault School, Leader Training Course, Leadership Development and Assessment Course, Nurse Summer Training Program, Army Science Board Internship, Cadet Troop Leader Training (Fort Riley) and Cadet Field Training at West Point.
- There are 20 brigades across the country (roughly 20 schools in each brigade). The University is in the best brigade in the country and is one of the top 3 schools within its brigade.
- Several fall events were noted some of which had a training focus and others an individual assessment focus.
- The battalion has physical training on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 0630 – 0730. Once a month this includes a Combat Water Survival Test and a Leadership Lab. Physical training also includes a 3-day field training exercise at Camp Ripley among other activities.
- Examples of cadet professional field training events for SY 2006 – 2007 include but are not limited to Basic Airborne Course in Fort Benning, GA; Combat Survival Training in Fort Bragg, NC; Mountain Warfare Training in Fort Wainwright, AK; United Kingdom University Officer Training Corps in the United Kingdom.
- Four cadets will be studying abroad – 1 in Italy, 1 in the United Kingdom, 1 in China and 1 in Russia. In terms of course requirements for these cadets, the Army uses Blackboard for testing and assignment purposes.
- As of December 2006, 58 cadets have scholarships totaling \$870,791.
- 2007 spring semester enrollment is projected to be approximately 106 of which 71 cadets are projected to receive scholarships totaling \$1,190,208.
- Army ROTC contributions to the University and surrounding community include but are not limited to service on the Veteran’s Stadium Committee, help with the Veteran’s

Transition Center (Comfort for Courage), participation in the POW/MIA vigil at the State Capital, Veteran's Day ceremony at Fridley Middle School, provided support at the Minnesota State Science Fair.

- There will be turnover this summer with CAPT Kemp leaving and MAJ Rick Johnson retiring.

Prior to concluding this presentation, LTC Cooper thanked the University, the SCEP ROTC Subcommittee, the ROTC Alumni Association and the Cadre Tuition Assistance Program for their support. Another incentive for the Army ROTC is the free room and board provided by the University of St. Thomas, an affiliated Army ROTC school.

To summarize, LTC Cooper noted that this is one of the best ROTC Battalions in the country. The Army ROTC is an integral part of the University and the local community and offers numerous opportunities for students. The program is growing.

IV). CAPT Coulson provided the committee with a Navy brief and highlighted the following:

- The University's Navy ROTC program has been recognized for tightening relationships with the other Navy units in the area.
- The Navy ROTC provided additional assistance to a local Junior ROTC program this fall when that program lost its Commander.
- Currently, 80 cadets are enrolled with approximately 60 students on scholarship.
- The Navy has 10 Out-Of-Service Training Officers, e.g. dentists, doctors.
- One quarter of the Navy's ROTC students are from the University of St. Thomas.
- Approximately 50% of the Navy cadets have some sort of technical or engineering major. Ideally this number would be higher, e.g. in the 75% - 80% range. The University has an excellent engineering school, but it is difficult. For students to stay in the program they need to maintain a 2.0 GPA and to retain their scholarship they need to maintain a 2.5 GPA.
- The Navy has experienced program losses for a variety of reasons.
- Only twenty-nine percent of young adults in this year's high school graduating class who are 18 years or older are medically eligible to enter the services. It is from this pool that the ROTC recruits.
- This year's class is the largest in decades with 24 students enrolled.
- There is a strain on the U. S. Navy because personnel in training and other units who are on shore leave are eligible to be called to active duty.
- The unit is recognized for having the strongest guest speaker program in the Navy ROTC. Fall 2006 guest speakers included the Chief of Naval Personnel, Chief of Naval Forces Korea, the Commander of the newest submarine in the Navy, 3 nuclear surface warfare speakers, and an officer recruiter.
- The drill team visited Cornell University in November. The University was the smallest ROTC program represented. There were a lot of military schools, including West Point, the Naval Academy and the Merchant Marine Academy. The U of M NROTC unit placed 4th overall in this drill meet.
- The Toys For Tots drive raised \$1,000 and received 300 toys at the Mall of America.
- The Navy ROTC unit has raised \$6,500 this year, which reduces cadet's expenses.

- Examples of ROTC volunteer activities this fall included Habitat for Humanity, a coat drive, and a 5K run.
- Continued challenges include the poor condition of the Armory, student scheduling conflicts, the firearms training facility remains closed, a static budget despite an increase in the battalion size.
- Spring 2007 events will include a JMAC Sports Day on March 3rd, return of Lieutenant Peeler from Iraq in April and CAPT Coulson will retire on July 1st.
- The University's Naval ROTC program is considered one of the top 3 units in the country.

V). Professor Ruden reported on the meeting of Naval ROTC Association of Colleges and Universities, which took place at USC in Los Angeles. At this meeting, Rear Admiral Jones provided a briefing and had some interesting comments about the ROTC program in general, and the Naval ROTC program specifically. He emphasized the flexibility that ROTC has as opposed to the service academies.

Also, Dr. Stein, the civilian who runs the ROTC program for the Navy, gave a detailed briefing, which included data on the need to increase diversity in the officer corps as well as data on the weight given to academic performance for students applying for scholarships. Additionally, Dr. Stein noted that she was supportive of having civilian faculty participate in PRBs.

Dr. Swan noted that recently there has been a change in leadership in the Office of Equity and Diversity, and wondered if the service branches would be interested in meeting with Vice President and Vice Provost Dr. Nancy O'Rusty-Barcelo. Dr. Swan volunteered to raise the recruitment of minority's issue in the military with Dr. Barcelo.

Dr. Swan reported that the feedback he received with regard to the Board of Regents lunch with cadet representatives from the three service branches was very positive. He added seeing Margaret Carlson who indicated that the Carlson School of Management is very interested in building on its relationship with the service branches. With this said, a member from the Law School stated that if any of the service branches have cadets interested in going to Law School, the Law School would also like to cultivate a relationship with these cadets/service branches.

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

Renee Dempsey
University Senate