

ROTC SENATE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 26, 2007

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

[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.

II). Members unanimously approved the December 15, 2006 minutes.

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

- The Army's mission – To commission the future officer leadership of the U.S. Army and motivate young people to be better citizens.
- The University's Army cadre currently stands at 11, plus two employees provided by the University. There are plans to increase the unit size by 6 cadre, which includes 3 officers, 1 NCO and 2 human resource personnel. The reason for this personnel increase has to do with the fact that commissioning expectations will increase from about 12 lieutenants to 25 lieutenants by 2010. More than likely these employees will be contract personnel from the local area who are currently guard officers.
- As of April 2007, 92 cadets were enrolled in the battalion.
- As of April 2007, 72 cadets are on scholarships.
- Projected enrollment for fall 2007 includes 21 freshmen on scholarship.
- Total battalion enrollment for fall 2007 is expected to be 102.
- Compared to the University's demographics, the Army's demographics are fairly similar in terms of ethnicity. Exceptions noted, however, are the Army has more Caucasians and fewer Asian/Pacific Islanders. With respect to gender, as compared to other Army ROTC battalions, this battalion has roughly twice as many females.
- The Army has conducted a lot of training this semester. Training examples include but are not limited to Leadership Labs, Diagnostic APFT, Joint Military Athletic Competition.
- Commissioning will take place on May 18th.
- Examples of cadet professional field training opportunities for summer 2007 include but are not limited to: Basic Airborne Course, Air Assault School, Combat Survival Training, Mountain Warfare, Nurse Summer Training Program, NSA National Ground Intelligence Center Intelligence Program.

- Four cadets are currently studying abroad in the following countries: Italy, United Kingdom, China and Russia.
- University contributions/incentives to the Army ROTC program include:
 - An executive administrative specialist.
 - A shared supply tech with the Air Force ROTC.
 - A University budget based on ROTC enrollment/tuition.
 - The ROTC Subcommittee.
 - ROTC Alumni Association.
 - Cadre tuition assistance.
- Examples of Army ROTC contributions to the University include:
 - Service on the Veteran's Stadium Committee and the Veteran's Advisory Committee.
 - Work with the Veteran's Transition Center (Comfort for Courage - <http://www.comfortforcourage.org/>).
 - Color guards for Athletic Department events.
- A snapshot of some Army ROTC contributions to the community include:
 - Big Ten swimming championships.
 - Minnesota State Science Fair support.
 - Cretin Durham Hall inspection.
 - NCAA swimming championships.
- Army ROTC awards include:
 - MacArthur Award,
 - Best medium Brigade in 11th ROTC Brigade.
 - Founders and Patriots of America Award, which is given to the best overall battalion in cadet command.
- Individual cadet awards for Michael Hoffman, Joshua Rud were highlighted. Additionally, Major Tim Kemp's award was noted.
- The service branches met with Zone Manager Kevin Taylor concerning Armory facilities issues. Issues that were identified included abatement of asbestos in firing range (health/safety risk), gym floor needs to be structurally upgraded (safety risk), window replacement (made FM priority list, but not enough funding in the budget to go ahead with this project), and work is currently underway to turn on the fire extinguisher system. Mr. Taylor requested the service branches prepare an executive summary outlining these issues, which he will share with Vice President Kathy O'Brien and Mike Berthelsen. CAPT Coulson requested Dr. Swan's assistance in moving this request along. He added that Vice President O'Brien visited the Armory a couple years ago and is aware of the condition of the Armory. LTC Cooper asked members of the Subcommittee to familiarize themselves with the Armory's facilities' issues and to be prepared to advocate on behalf of the service branches to get these repairs/upgrades taken care of.

To summarize, LTC Cooper noted:

- The Gopher ROTC Battalion was ranked the best in the country this past year.
- The Army ROTC is part of the University and the local community.
- The Army ROTC offers numerous opportunities for students.
- The Amory is in need of much needed repairs.

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

- The AFROTC Detachment 415 mission was expanded to include the following verbiage,
– To develop the skills to meet the challenges of an ever-changing Air Expedition Force (AEF) mission.
- New Air Force ROTC personnel include CAPT John Worley (March 2007) and CAPT Kelly Polsgrove (summer 2007).
- Outgoing personnel - CAPT Melissa Gallagher. CAPT Gallagher will separate in September 2007 as part of the Air Force's efforts to downsize.
- Airmen Education and Commissioning Programs – Two different programs allow enlisted men and women to earn their commissions. First, under the old program, active duty enlisted personnel are given the opportunity to earn a commission as a second lieutenant while completing their bachelor's degree. Under the new program, students finish their degree and attend Officer Training School (OTC) in order to receive their commission. Two students are currently participating in these programs, one under the old program and the other under the new program. Dr. Swan reported that there is an agreement on all campuses that active duty overseas military personnel seeking a degree will not be assessed an application fee. It is unclear when this agreement will go into effect.
- Three Gopher Air Force ROTC students are majoring in the sciences, e.g. computer engineering, physics and medical residency.
- Staff events:
 - The NW Region Commander visited in April. Commander Metz was very impressed with the cadets.
 - There will be an Air Force ROTC safety inspection conducted on April 30.
 - Field training for the cadets will take place from approximately May 12 – 28, 2007.
 - The two new Air Force personnel, CAPT Worley and CAPT Polsgrove, will attend Academic Instructor School in June 2007.
 - The Tri-Service Commissioning will take place on May 18th, 2007.
- The Gopher Air Force ROTC program has seen a significant number of students wanting to enroll, but, for medical reasons, have been disqualified.
- Examples of cadet training activities include:
 - Aerospace courses.
 - Physical training, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 0630.
 - Close combat training is offered 3 times per week. Cadets must attend two PT sessions per week,
 - Cadet Initiated Academic Program – cadets ask for periodic feedback from their instructors on how they are doing in their courses.
- The Air Force is assuming more Army jobs; therefore, Air Force cadets are receiving training to take on this role, e.g. self-defense.
- Examples of fall 2006 and spring 2007 cadet events included:
 - Welcome New Cadets Course.
 - POW/MIA Vigil.

- Parent's Winter Social.
- Close Combat Seminar.
- Wright-Patterson AFB visit.
- Tri-Service Parade and Ball.
- Fall 2007 cadet events:
 - Welcome New Cadets Course.
 - POW/MIA Vigil.
 - Project Warrior – focused on land navigation, basic survival skills and Air Force AEF concepts.
 - Combat Dining-In.
 - Integrated self-defense instruction.
 - Treasure hunt fundraiser.

To summarize, LTC Ballinger noted the accomplishments of the AFROTC Detachment 415:

- Instituted integrated self-defense program.
- Created a top-notch field training preparation program.
- Hosted B2/F22 pilots and a robotics professor to enhance military understanding.
- Cadets were assigned to most selective jobs in the Air Force.
- Provided opportunities for cadets to experience active duty.
- Maintained positive community image/ties.

V). Next, Professor Ghere provided the committee with information on possible learning community models in an effort to help solve some of the ROTC's scheduling issues. He began by noting that there are a variety of different kinds of learning communities. For today's discussion members were asked to think of a learning community as a way of linking together two or more courses around a common interest or theme. There may or may not be direct collaboration between instructors, but ultimately this is the goal.

Professor Ghere, using a PowerPoint presentation, illustrated examples of learning communities. He noted that the learning community that he is involved in links his history course with two speech courses.

Features of learning communities include:

- Organizing students and faculty into learning groups.
- Encouraging integration of the curriculum.
- Establishing academic and social support networks.
- Providing a setting for students to be socialized to the expectations of college.
- Bringing faculty together in more meaningful ways.
- Focusing faculty and students on learning outcomes.

Benefits of learning communities include:

- Develops supportive peer groups.
- Facilitates student-faculty interaction.
- Increases student satisfaction and intellectual development.
- Enhances student persistence and retention.

- Engages students in learning.
- Encourages collaboration between instructors.
- Permits cross-disciplinary assignments and themes.
- Promotes curriculum development.

Professor Ghere cited specific ROTC examples of learning community arrangements that may benefit the Navy, Army and the Air Force. He noted that there are countless possibilities when creating learning communities; it is really up to one's imagination.

Considerations when designing learning communities include:

- What courses are required prerequisites?
- What courses provide needed skills?
- What courses have natural connections?
- What courses fulfill multiple CLE requirements?
- What courses would be most interesting to cadets/midshipmen?

Next steps:

- Explore whether learning communities would be beneficial for cadets and midshipmen.
- Determine if learning communities would be helpful in alleviating scheduling difficulties.
- Decide what courses should be linked with ROTC courses to create learning communities.
- Ask cadets and midshipmen about their instructors.
- Approach instructors about creating learning communities.

Professor Ruden thanked Professor Ghere for sharing this information.

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

- There are 77 midshipmen in the Gopher battalion, which is composed of Officer Candidates (OCs) and Marine Corps Enlisted Commissioning Program (MCECP) members.
- For 2008, there will be 30 scholarship students and 3 non-scholarship students.
- Fourteen midshipmen will be commissioned in May.
- Loss of one freshman is anticipated and 1 - 2 additional students may be terminated for disciplinary and grade problems.
- Navy ROTC students by college:
 - Carlson School of Management - 1
 - Education and Human Development – 8
 - Food, Agricultural & Natural Resource Sciences – 3
 - Institute of Technology – 14
 - Liberal Arts – 26
 - Nursing – 5
 - University of St. Thomas – 20
- A majority of Navy ROTC students are from the upper Midwest; however, there is a smattering of students from across the U.S. The University of Minnesota program has a very good reputation.

- Average cumulative GPA at the end of fall semester 2006 was 3.15.
- Battalion events included but were not limited to:
 - Two students were finalists for the University of Minnesota President's Leadership and Academic Scholarship.
 - The Gopher Battalion ranked 4th of 42 units at the National Drill meet in Tulane. The University of Minnesota was the smallest unit at this meet.
 - This spring, a field training exercise for Marines was conducted.
 - A nuclear power visit by the USS West Virginia SSBN.
 - Visited the USS Freedom LCS-1 in Marionette, WI.
 - Spring U/ROTC Bierman Invitational Track Meet.
 - Numerous volunteer activities, e.g. Race for the Cure, coat drive.
- CAPT Duane Nestor will take command on May 11th at 2 p.m. replacing CAPT Coulson who is retiring.

Before closing, CAPT Coulson thanked his fellow Military Science professors for their support.

VII). LTC Cooper thanked CAPT Coulson for his guidance and conversations over the past few years. With this said, he presented him with the coveted Army ROTC polo shirt, which CAPT Coulson assured him he would wear.

Dr. Swan also thanked CAPT Coulson for his hard work and the leadership he provided to this outstanding Naval unit.

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

Renee Dempsey
University Senate