

ROTC SENATE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 13, 2007

[In these minutes: Navy Brief, Army Brief, Air Force Brief, Naval ROTC Association of Colleges and Universities Meeting Update, Craig Swan Thank You]

[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, Duane Nestor, Craig Swan, Shawn Curley, Dave Ghere, Marti Hope Gonzales, Joan Howland, Perry Leo

I). Professor Ruden called the meeting to order.

II). Captain Duane Nestor provided the committee with a Navy brief. Copies of his PowerPoint presentation were distributed to members. Presentation highlights included:

- Mission: "To develop midshipmen morally, mentally and physically and to imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor and loyalty in order to commission college graduates as officers."
- Current staff – 11.
- 88 NROTC (Navy Reserve Officers Training Corp) students are enrolled in the program.
- The Midshipman battalion continues to expand. The unit has almost doubled in the last five years.
- The unit is focusing on diversity recruiting. Currently, only 6 out of 88 students are non-white. The Navy is targeting recruitment of African Americans and Hispanics. Female recruitment is satisfactory, but ideally should be slightly higher.
- Academically, the average cumulative GPA is 3.16, which compares favorably with the University student body. NROTC engineering and physics majors are taking, on average, slightly under 5 years to graduate.
- There will be a total of three Military Excellence Competitions (drill meet competitions between NROTC units) this year – Tulane, Wisconsin and Cornell. At the Wisconsin meet, the University took first place in the platoon drill.
- Examples of community service events include: Toys for Tots, Habitat for Humanity, annual blood drive, Adopt-A-Highway, POW/MIA Vigil.
- Examples of summer training assignments include: USMC Mountain Warfare School, USMC Officer Candidate School, French Navy Foreign Exchange.
- NROTC training highlights: Naval Science Laboratory, new student orientation, physical fitness training, Marine option field exercises.
- Accomplishments over the past year include:
 - Enrollment up 14% over previous year.
 - 2 NROTC students received University of Minnesota 2007 President's Student Leadership Awards, 2ndLt Lammi, and OC Lindgren.
 - MIDN Nelson placed 152nd at Boston Marathon.

- Battalion placed 4th nationally out of 65 schools in the Tulane Military Excellence Competition and 1st out of 12 schools at Wisconsin Military Excellence Competition in platoon drill.
- Veteran's Appreciation 5K Run was held in September 2007.
- Upcoming events:
 - JROTC (Junior ROTC) Drill Meet – (brings high school students to the campus).
 - Triennial Inspection.

To conclude, Captain Nestor reported that there are no real issues with the unit. Armory conditions remain a concern.

III). Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Cooper provided the committee with an Army brief. Copies of his PowerPoint presentation were distributed to members. Presentation highlights included:

- Mission: "To commission the future officer leadership of the U.S. Army and motivate young people to be better citizens."
- The unit has been given orders to grow. As of last week, LTC Cooper was authorized to hire 4 additional personnel. Current, cadre is 11.
- As of October 2007, 123 cadets are enrolled in the program.
- As of October 2007, 91 Army cadets are on full scholarship. The Army's definition of full scholarship is full tuition, fees, books, and a subsistence allowance. Full scholarship acceptance requires a 4-year active service duty obligation or 8-year Guard obligation.
- In terms of demographics, with the exception of Asian/Pacific Islanders, the Army ROTC student body mirrors that of the University. A majority of Asian/Pacific Islanders at the University are foreign nationals, which prevents them from serving in the military upon graduation given they are not U.S. citizens. Additionally, 20% of the cadets in the program are female, and this number is growing.
- Examples of major fall and spring events include: Combat Water Survival Testing (CWST), Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), Leadership Lab, Ranger Challenge, Night Land Navigation Training, Dining-In, Joint Service Review and Ball, Commissioning.
- The battalion's training schedule was shared with the committee.
- Examples of 2007 – 2008 cadet professional field training events include: Basic Airborne Course, Air Assault School, Combat Survival Training, Combat Divers Qualification Course, Cadet Field Training, and Mountain Warfare Training.
- Summer training opportunities for cadets include, but are not limited to, National Ground Intelligence Center Internship Program, Cadet Troop Leader Training, Cadet Command Strategic Open Research Program, and Cadet Command Internship Program.
- This year, the program was ranked as the best ROTC Battalion in the country. In addition to achieving this ranking, the program won other awards include MacArthur Award for the best medium Brigade in 11th ROTC Brigade and Order of the Founders and Patriots of America Award, which is given to the best overall battalion in Cadet Command.
- There are significant opportunities for Army cadets at this time, e.g. internships, foreign exchange programs. Language is the Army's focus.
- LTC Cooper announced he would be retiring this spring.

On behalf of all three branches, LTC Cooper addressed the Armory issues and provided information on the status of the building and repairs needed. Facilities Management has agreed to allocate \$325 million for projects that need to be repaired immediately, replacement of the gym floor, installation of thermostats, housing air conditioning units in strong boxes and installation of window shrouds in offices.

The Facilities Condition Assessment (FCA) conducted by Facilities Management (FM) uncovered numerous intermediate and long-term repairs for the building. Intermediate objectives include installing new windows in the Armory and air conditioning in the gym. In the long term, it was determined that the Armory needs a full and complete renovation including lead abatement in the rifle range, fire system upgrades, electrical upgrades, and making the building handicap accessible. Both the intermediate and long-term recommendations require University prioritization.

In response to a question, LTC Cooper stated that the exterior of the building is in good condition, but it the interior that is in disrepair. A full renovation of the building is estimated to cost \$30 - \$40 million, and would take approximately 2 years.

In closing, LTC Cooper thanked Dr. Swan for his guidance and friendship over the years given Dr. Swan's decision to retire at the end of the year.

Professor Ruden asked the extent to which the Army planned to grow. LTC Cooper stated that he has been instructed to grow the unit to 150. He added that officer requirements have increased given the Army's decision to reorganize from a division-focused model (WWII model) to a brigade--centered model.

IV). Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Ballinger provided the committee with an Air Force brief. Copies of his PowerPoint presentation were distributed to members. Presentation highlights included:

- Vision – "To educate, train and commission world class Air Force officers."
- Mission – "Professional cadre and cadets building world class Air Force officers for tomorrow's Air and Space Force."
- The Air Force recently approved an Air Force Combatives Program.
- LTC John Fortenberry will arrive May/June 2008 and replace LTC Ballinger, who will be leaving in August 2008.
- The Airmen Education & Commissioning Program gives active duty enlisted personnel the opportunity to earn a commission while completing their bachelor's degree. Once students complete their bachelor's degree they attend Officer Training School (OTS). Currently, 2 students are in this program.
- The Air Force Institute of Technology offers PhD programs to commissioned officers. Three students are currently in this program.
- Examples of staff events include Northwest Region Commander visit, field training, High Headquarters (HHQ) Staff Assistance Visit and High Headquarters Safety Inspection.
- Current unit enrollment is at 60 cadets.
- In 2008, 13 cadets are expected to be commissioned.

- Examples of cadet training includes aerospace courses, leadership laboratory, physical fitness training, close combat training.
- Examples of cadet events include New Cadet Orientation, POW/MIA Vigil, Project Warrior, Combat Dining-In, and Night at the Armory.
- Night at the Armory introduces prospective cadets to the University and AFROTC. This recruiting event will be held in early December.
- Air Force ROTC won the 2007 JMAC.
- The kick-off for the fund drive for the New Horizons Leadership and Ethics Foundation, a cadet-conceived and cadet-driven initiative, was November 7th. Five dollar raffle tickets are being sold to support this initiative.

A member asked whether the recruiting event, Night at the Armory, is done in coordination with Admissions or academic units. This first event has been put together relatively quickly, but in the future the Air Force would definitely be interested in collaborating with other units.

LTC Ballinger wished Dr. Swan well with his upcoming retirement. He added that his new orders are still pending.

V). Professor Ruden shared information on the Naval ROTC Association of Colleges and Universities meeting, which he attended in late October in the San Francisco Bay area. In addition to briefings, there was a fair amount of discussion concerning declining SAT scores.

The other concern that was discussed was the Navy's lack of diversity and failure to meet its diversity goals. CAPT Nestor stated that the Navy is changing how it recruits cadets in an attempt to increase diversity. Dr. Swan suggested contacting the University's Office of Admissions for ideas on recruiting a diverse freshman class.

Professor Ruden reported that there was also a discussion related to the Navy's goal of having 65% of cadets with technical majors. Currently, about 40+% have technical majors.

In terms of staffing, it was also reported that enlisted billets are being phased out in favor of civilian employees. The other issue is ????? I COULDN'T HEAR THE TAPE but it had something to do with staffing – DO YOU REMEMBER? Something about contractors???

VI). Professor Ruden thanked Dr. Swan for serving on this committee. Dr. Swan stated that over the course of the years he has worked with some extraordinary military personnel on this committee, and he stated that he has been very appreciative of their work.

Hearing no further business, Professor Ruden adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate

