

ROTC SENATE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 7, 2008

[In these minutes: Welcome to Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Bob McMaster, Navy brief, Army brief, Air Force 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, Keith Wettschreck for Duane Nestor, Bob McMaster, Shawn Curley, Dave Ghere, Marti Hope Gonzales

REGRETS: Joan Howland, Perry Leo

I). Professor Ruden called the meeting to order and welcomed Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Bob McMaster who replaces Craig Swan who retired. Vice Provost McMaster thanked the committee for their warm welcome and stated that he looks forward to serving on the committee.

II). Commander Wettschreck provided the committee with the Navy brief. He began by noting that CPT Nestor is unable to attend today's meeting because he is attending a meeting of the NROTC scholarship selection boards. Highlights from Commander Wettschreck's briefing 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."
- The University's NROTC unit has 10 authorized staff.
- Last fall, the NROTC unit had 88 students on board; now the unit has 75 students. Six students graduated/commissioned in December 2007, and 8 students withdrew from the program in the December 2007 – January 2008 timeframe.
- Twenty scholarship freshmen are enrolled for fall 2008. In addition, several non-scholarship students have expressed an interest in joining the fall freshman class. Estimated fall 2008 enrollment is 27 students.
- Of the 75 current students, 6 are non-white and 13 are female.
- Academically, the battalion competes favorably with the University student body. The average cumulative GPA, through fall 2007, was 3.15.
- The NROTC unit competed in three drill meets this year – Wisconsin, Cornell, and Tulane.
- The unit participated in several community service events, e.g. annual blood drive, Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity.
- NROTC training highlights include but are not limited to joint warfare tactical decision game, physical readiness tests, small unit tactical leadership evaluations.
- The NROTC unit had several successes this year, which were shared with the committee.

Commander Wettschreck thanked members for their time and attention.

III). LTC Cooper provided the committee with the Army brief. He began by noting that he will be retiring soon. Highlights from LTC Cooper's briefing included:

- Mission: To commission the future officer leadership of the U.S. Army and motivate young people to be better citizens.
- Cadre personnel total 15.
- Cadets as of April 2008 total 116. The program has grown significantly and continues to grow.
- Estimated fall scholarships total 28.
- Currently, 94 students in the AROTC program are on scholarship. This number is expected to increase to 140 by next fall.
- Demographically, the AROTC program is a reflection of the University with the exception of Asian/Pacific Islanders. In terms of female cadets, approximately 20% of enrollees are female, which compares very favorably to the Army as a whole, which has approximately 11% females.
- Major fall and spring events were shared with the committee.
- Four-star General Casey (Army Chief of Staff) will address cadets being commissioned this spring.
- Summer training opportunities for cadets were shared, e.g. National Ground Intelligence Center Internship Program, Cadet Command Strategic Open Research Program.
- The University's contributions to the AROTC program are greatly appreciated, e.g. an executive administrative specialist, a shared supply tech with the Air Force ROTC, a University budget based on ROTC enrollment/tuition.
- AROTC contributions to the University and community include, but are not limited to Color Guards for University athletic events and various community events, service on the Veteran's Stadium Committee and the Veteran's Advisory Committee, participating in the University's homecoming parade, St. Thomas Academy and Cretin Derham Hall inspections.
- Army ROTC awards were highlighted.
- Facilities Management (FM) is addressing some of the facility needs of the Armory, gym floor, thermostats, air conditioning and window shrouds in offices. Additional FM facilities recommendations for the Armory include window replacements, air conditioning in the gym, lead abatement in the rifle range, fire system upgrade, electrical upgrade, handicap access. Funding for these additional recommendations has yet to be identified.
- The Carlson School of Management (CSOM) has contacted the ROTC to conduct a leadership course.

Before Professor Ghere provided his report at the spring Senate Committee Chair's Meeting, he noted that several faculty were already aware of the fact that the Army ROTC Program won the 2007 Order of the Founders and Patriots of America Award, which is awarded to the best overall battalion in cadet command. LTC Cooper thanked Professor Ghere for this comment, and stated it is a reflection of the quality of the University, and these cadets. LTC Cooper thanked members for their time and attention.

IV). LTC Ballinger provided the committee with the Air Force briefing. He began by noting that this will also be his last meeting as he is being given a new assignment. His replacement will be LTC Fortenberry. Highlights from LTC Ballinger's briefing 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. Develop the skills to meet the challenges of an ever-changing AEF mission.
- Combative training is now part of field training for Air Force cadets. This training prepares the Air Force to fight on the ground.
- There are two students in the Airmen Education & Commissioning Program, one studying Hebrew and the other aeronautical engineering.
- There are 9 students in the Air Force Institute of Technology.
- Staff events were highlighted, e.g. AFROTC commander visit, field training.
- Cadet enrollment numbers are decreasing. In part, this can be attributed to limited scholarship dollars. Also, the program has had several medical disqualifications recently.
- Cadet training and events were shared with the committee, e.g. physical training program, field training prep, Tri-Service Parade and Ball, commissioning.
- 19 students participated in a combatives training event that was held at the Armory March 17 – 21, 2008. 18 of the 19 students graduated.
- A new scholarship fund has been created at the University, New Horizons Leadership & Ethics Foundation – Fund #2638. The primary reason for creating this fund is to increase the University's AFROTC program's ability to be more competitive with the University of St. Thomas, which offers room and board scholarships.
- Normandale Community College will become a cross-town detachment to the University.
- The AFROTC program is pursuing offering a Combatives for Military Operations course.
- The Parent's Scholarship Oversight Committee (NHLESF) continues to work on raising scholarship dollars.

LTC Ballinger thanked members for their time and attention.

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

Renee Dempsey
University Senate