

ROTC SENATE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 24, 2009

[In these minutes: Navy Brief, Air Force Brief, Army 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), Michael Conway, Joel Fortenberry, Duane Nestor, Robert McMaster, Shawn Curley, Joan Howland

REGRETS: Dave Ghery, Marti Gonzales, Perry Leo

I). Professor Ruden called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

II). CAPT Duane Nestor provided the committee with a Navy ROTC (NROTC) briefing. Copies of his PowerPoint presentation were distributed to members. Presentation highlights included:

- CAPT Nestor announced that he will be leaving the University at the end of summer, and his relief is CAPT Steve DiNobile, who has already been approved. In addition, a NROTC instructor and a non-instructor staff member are leaving, and their reliefs have been approved as well.
- The NROTC University budget is \$334,733. The NROTC budget is in the black, in part, because all instructor salaries are paid by the federal government.
- Sixteen personnel will be commissioned this spring: 6 Marines, 4 Nurses, 4 Pilots, 1 SEAL (12 nationally), and 1 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (10 nationally).
- Summer training details were shared with the committee. Freshman students who have completed their first year will either go to Norfolk, VA or San Diego, CA. These students will have four weeks of training in each of the following areas: Aviation Week, Surface Week, Sub Week, and Marine Week. Sophomore student's summer training is on a cruise where they live, eat and work as enlisted personnel to gain an understanding of their concerns. Then, junior student's summer training is on a cruise where they will learn a junior officer's job, and live in officer quarters and eat in officer facilities.

CAPT Nestor then took members' questions. Professor Ruden thanked CAPT Nestor for his presentation.

III). LTC Fortenberry provided the committee with an Air Force ROTC (AFROTC) briefing. Copies of his PowerPoint presentation were distributed to members. Presentation highlights included:

- A review by LTC Fortenberry of the Det 415 personnel. Members' attention was turned to an organizational chart and LTC Fortenberry walked members through it.
- 43 cadets are currently enrolled in the program of which 30 are on a full scholarship.
- 10 graduates will commission on May 21, 2009.
- 14 cadets will be going to field training this summer in Alabama.
- Looking ahead to fall 2009, there will be a minimum of 12 new students/cadets. The final number is expected to be between 15 – 20 new students/cadets.
- Approximately 40 AFROTC high school scholarship winners listed the University of Minnesota as their number one choice of schools.
- Upcoming events:
 - May 2: Joint Service Parade, Field House.
 - May 21: Commissioning, Northrop.
 - June 17 – 20: AFROTC Distinguished Educators Visit at Maxwell AFB, AL. (Members interested in visiting Maxwell AFB were asked to inform LTC Fortenberry.)
 - September 11: Veterans Memorial Dedication, TCF Bank Stadium.
- The Air Force has scholarship opportunities available for majors in computer engineering, electrical engineering, bio-environmental engineering, nursing, Russian, Asian languages and literature. A 2.5 minimum GPA is required, and students must meet all physical requirements.
- There are rumblings that the Air Force may consolidate some of its attachments during 2010 – 2011. LTC Fortenberry will keep Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Robert McMaster apprised of any developments in this area.

LTC Fortenberry took members' questions. Professor Ruden thanked LTC Fortenberry for his presentation.

IV). LTC Conway provided the committee with an Army (AROTC) briefing. 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.
- Cadre personnel statistics were shared with members. Currently, one assistant professor of Military Science position is vacant as is one University of Minnesota staff position. Once these two vacancies are filled, AROTC cadre will total 15.
- Since spring of 2006, the number of cadets has increased by 65 to a current total of 133.
- Annual AROTC scholarship values at the University total \$705,696 for 48 scholarships.
- Spring and fall 2009 battalion events were shared with members, e.g., Welcome Back BBQ, Day/Night Land Navigation, Leadership Lab, Field

Training Exercise at Camp Ripley, Joint Service Review, Ball and Commissioning.

- Details on the 2009 – 2010 cadet summer training opportunities were shared with members. Training opportunities will include: Cadet Troop Leadership Training, Nurse Summer Training Program, Cultural Internship Program, Airborne Training, and Air Assault Training.
- The University's contributions to AROTC include a discretionary budget (maintenance, heat, electric) and employees (executive administrative specialist and an executive accounts specialist) as well as a campus presence and voice. In addition, two Twin City affiliated universities (Concordia & University of St. Thomas) provide ROTC scholarship cadets with room and board.
- AROTC contributions to the University include the Veteran's Transition Center (Comfort for Courage), Color Guards for Athletic Department events, veteran enrollment. AROTC contributions to the community include but are not limited to St. Thomas Academy and Cretin-Derham Hall inspections, Color Guards for community events, Cretin-Derham Hall Upper Midwest JROTC Challenge, participation in the AROTC Ten Miler, etc.
- The program received the General MacArthur Unit Award for 2008. This award is given to the top eight battalions (out of 273) based on recruiting and cadet performance. A slide outlining additional University AROTC awards as well as individual awards/recognitions was then referenced.
- In 2008, Facilities Management (FM) approved \$325,000 for three Armory projects, the gym floor, thermostats, and air conditioners and window shrouds in offices. Intermediate FM Armory recommendations included window replacements, and air conditioning in the gym. Long-term, FM would recommend a full and complete renovation including lead abatement in the rifle range, fire system upgrades, electrical upgrades, and making the building handicap accessible. Intermediate and long-term recommendations require University prioritization.
- University of Minnesota affiliate percentages over the last five years were contrasted with the percentage as of February 1, 2009. Given the challenging economic times, the room and board benefit offered to AROTC scholarship recipients by affiliated institutions (University of St. Thomas, Concordia University, St. John's University and College of St. Benedict's) may be influencing which schools students choose to attend.

LTC Conway then took members' questions. Professor Ruden thanked LTC Conway for his presentation.

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

Renee Dempsey
University Senate

