

**ROTC Subcommittee
November 30, 2020
Minutes of the Meeting**

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes reflects the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration, or the Board of Regents.

[In these minutes: Unit Presentations]

PRESENT: Joan Howland (chair), Elizabeth Ambrose, Greg Beilman, Mark Bell, Thomas Brothen, Jonathan Carter, Melissa Hoaglin, Robert McMaster, Blake Torgna

OTHERS: Commander Andrew Behlke, executive officer, Naval ROTC

1. Unit Presentations

Chair Joan Howland called the meeting to order. She and McMaster offered words of welcome and extended their appreciation to the unit commanders, other ROTC instructors, and staff for their leadership and excellent performance during the unusual circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. McMaster and Howland also thanked the subcommittee members for their commitment and careful review of the ROTC appointment files. In addition, McMaster and Howland thanked Amber Bathke, senate associate, University Senate Office, for her continued support of the subcommittee's work. Howland then turned the floor over to the unit commanders.

Army

Lieutenant Colonel Melissa Hoaglin provided the [Army ROTC update](#), noting the following:

- The battalion is larger this year than usual by about 15 cadets.
- Master Sergeant Troy Hill, Major Chad Leitzke, and Captain Matt Cordell will all be leaving around summer 2021.
- Despite the pandemic, some cadets were able to complete internships with the local Army Corps of Engineers.
- Nearly the whole senior class had to be quarantined for two weeks after being exposed to COVID-19. Only two cases were reported from this incident, but the lack of available MS4s (seniors) had an impact on training for other students.
- Around 15 students total tested positive for COVID-19 during the course of the semester; no cases were severe.

Air Force

Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Carter provided the [Air Force ROTC update](#). In particular, he called attention to the following:

- There is more competition for the professor of aerospace science positions than in the past.
- Captain Rick Freeman and Major Daniel Hatzung will depart this summer.
- There are fewer cadets than normal this year, most likely due to the pandemic.
- Diversity is a growing initiative in the detachment as well as the region. A region-wide diversity initiative group has been formed. Carter expressed concern, however, that diversity-related efforts may be stymied by bureaucratic issues, such as recruitment

practices. He noted that the high schools they are directed to recruit from are some of the least diverse in the metro area, and that recruits must be strong in STEM. Minoritized students who are strong in STEM at those schools will likely have other scholarship opportunities, he said, that will be in competition with the ROTC.

- There have been just a handful of confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 among the cadets.

Navy

Captain Blake Torgna provided the [Naval ROTC update](#), highlighting the following points:

- The cadre is almost completely new this year, except Lieutenant Edgard Corea. He will leave at the end of the year.
- The appointment of several faculty with backgrounds in aviation will most likely result in a shift from emphasis on surface warfare to naval aviation.
- 9 midshipmen and a couple of staff members came down with COVID-19.
- There are fewer midshipmen of color this year; Torgna said he would be looking at recruiting efforts to address this.
- There may be a shift in scholarships in the near future, as the Navy looks to redistribute scholarships to some underutilized sites. Torgna speculated that the University of Minnesota may see some of those funds.
- Classes and activities were almost fully virtual all semester.
- All recently commissioned graduates received their first choice of service placement.

Bob McMaster asked each unit to comment on their policy regarding S/N grading. Torgna said that the Navy requires A-F grading. Hoaglin and Carter reported that the Army and Air Force defer to the University's policies, but taking S/N courses may affect accessions in terms of order of merit.

Hearing no further business, Howland thanked everyone for their time and work, and adjourned the meeting.

Amber Bathke
University Senate Office