ROTC SENATE MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2003

[In these minutes: Report on the National Association of Navy ROTC Colleges and Universities Annual Meeting, Army Briefing, Navy Briefing, Armory Firing Range Status Update, Naval Science and Leadership Minor Update, Air Force Briefing]

[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: John Adams (Chair), Craig Swan, Dave Ghere, Jo-Ida Hansen, Paul Ruden, Marc Stanley, Dave Hutton, Douglas Trenda, Henry Gilman, Brad Meeks, Greg Webster

I). Professor Adams called the meeting to order and asked those present to introduce themselves.

II). Professor Adams called on Professor Ruden to report on the National Association of Navy ROTC Colleges and Universities annual meeting, which he attended in Arlington, Virginia in October 2003. Professor Ruden began by noting that this organization was founded shortly after WWII and its mission is to make the Naval ROTC Program the best it can be.

A series of detailed briefings were received at this meeting. To begin, Vice Admiral Alfred G. Harms, Commander, NETC (Naval Education & Training Command) stressed the following in his briefing:

- The world is a rapidly changing place and in response to that the Navy is also changing rapidly.
- The Navy needs personnel that can learn quickly.
- Retention is at an all time high.
- There exists a need for more graduate education opportunities for officers.

Other briefings were held and valuable information was shared including information on organizational changes within the Navy, scholarship information, etc. Professor Ruden also noted that technical degrees were discussed in terms of what constitutes a technical degree and what degrees are most valuable to the Navy. From Professor Ruden's perspective, he would be interested in learning which colleges/universities do a better job in graduating midshipmen with technical degrees.

Attendees of the conference were also treated to a tour of the training facilities at Quantico Marine Base. This tour included a visit to The Basic School (TBS) and the Marine Corp University.

III). Next, Lieutenant Colonel Trenda provided members with an Army briefing. He highlighted the following:

- The Army ROTC program is at full staff.
- From a cadet perspective, the Army met its mission last year; the first time in six years. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the Army has enough cadets in its pipeline for the next 3 years to satisfy its mission. Twenty cadets will participate in the National Advanced Leadership Camp at Fort Lewis and 3 cadets will participate in the Leaders Training Course at Fort Knox this summer. The University of Minnesota's Army ROTC program currently ranks 77 out of 276.
- Training continues to be the Army ROTC's hallmark. The training and prep provided at the University prepares cadets to be successful.
- There has been no real effect of modernization on the Army ROTC program as of yet. The philosophy behind the Army's program remains unchanged and the basics continue to be stressed e.g. leadership, task, training, etc. While changes are undoubtedly inevitable, nothing has trickled down into the Army ROTC program.
- The Army ROTC program successfully completed a bi-annual inspection from its Regional Headquarters in October.

IV). Captain Marc Stanley provided members with a Navy briefing. The following information was shared:

- There are currently 77 students in the Navy ROTC (NROTC) program; up from 67 last year. The goal is to have 100 students enrolled in the program.

- The average cumulative GPA for NROTC students is 3.12; up from 2.90 24 months ago. Students are advised and closely monitored in terms of how they are performing in their classes.
- Students are energized and engaged e.g. run the battalion, organize the change of command, etc.
- The University¹s NROTC program finished 7th out of 13 schools at the Madison drill meet in October.
- The ŒDining In¹ event was recently conducted where students learn the formalities of dining etiquette.
- The Red Cross Blood Drive was held last week. The drive was very successful and exceeded Red Cross expectations by 50%.
- NROTC has a series of clubs that are professional societies.
- Numerous Color Guard Performances representing the University are held primarily to gain exposure to the community but at times have also been a source of donations.
- Fund-raising and planning is underway to send 21 students to the Tulane National NROTC Drill Competition.
- Effects of modernization on the NROTC have been negligible.
- Tri-Service events will be held in April and May.
- The University receives 21 NROTC scholarships per year and ideally the Navy would like to see the University graduate this many students each year, but that has not happened. In December 2003, there were 3 graduates and in May 2004 there are expected to be 6 graduates.

V). Commander Dave Hutton shared information on the status of the Armory firing range. He noted the following:

- The range remains closed. It was closed in 1995 due to lead contamination.
- Assistance is being sought from the Army Hazardous Materials Team from Fort McCoy and/or a Navy Hazardous Materials Team on the Great Lakes to clean-up the lead hazard in the range.
- The University¹s Department of Environmental Health and Safety conducted a new engineering study on the range. Results from this most recent study have not been released.
- Recreation Sports remains interested in re-establishing a rifle and pistol club. In addition, the Department of Fisheries & Wildlife expressed an interest in using the range for a firearms safety course. Furthermore, it is likely that the University of Minnesota Police

Department would be interested in using the range for proficiency training if it were reopened.
- Continued efforts will be made to reopen this facility.

VI). Commander Dave Hutton provided an update on the Naval Science and Leadership Minor. This minor was originally proposed in 2000. A proposal has been drafted requesting the establishment of this minor and will be forwarded to Dr. Craig Swan for his endorsement by later this week. Then, once Dr. Swan has approved the proposal it will be forwarded on to Bill VanEssendelft in CCE. Hopefully CCE will be willing to administer this minor.

VII). Colonel Henry Gilman provided members with an Air Force briefing. He highlighted the following:

- Unit enrollment figures: 2001 – 53; 2002 – 90; 2003 – 87. Similar to the Navy, the Air Force does not have a set goal in terms of enrollment. The Air Force is pleased with its numbers.
- Approximately half of the Air Force ROTC graduates from the University graduate with a technical degree. The Air Force has 3 commissioning sources:
    - The Academy, which graduates primarily all technical degrees.
    - The ROTC – the Air Force ideally wants the ROTC to graduate as many technical degrees as possible.
    - The Officer Training School – Officer Training School is in a position to easily recruit individuals with non-technical degrees and teach them to fly, etc. This explains the need for the ROTC to graduate as many technical degrees as possible.
- The Air Force recognizes that most engineering degrees require 5 years to complete. In these circumstances, the Air Force extends its four year scholarship to five years, assuming a student has an Œapproved major¹ e.g. engineering, architecture, etc.
- The three services, Army, Navy and the Air Force, at the University are basically the same size. There are many joint activities with the three services. It is an advantage for ROTC students to have all three services represented on this campus.
- Contract cadets are those that the military is paying for their education. A vast majority of these cadets have a technical or Œsoft¹ technical major.

- As a point of interest, Colonel Gilman reported that a minority student will be graduating from the program this year as a pilot. The Air Force has a shortage of minorities represented in the cockpit. This University of Minnesota student will be 1 of less than 50 minority pilots to graduate across the nation this year.
- More important than the number of students enrolled in the Air Force ROTC program is the number of students that are commissioned. The Air Force, on average, commissions around 15 students each year.
- Cadet training information was noted.
- Air Force activities were noted.
- The University is in a very competitive recruiting market. It is particularly difficult for the University to compete with the University of St. Thomas, which offers free room and board. On the flip side, the University of St. Thomas does not offer the engineering programs, etc. that the University does. On average, the University of St. Thomas gets about 25 scholarships each freshmen year whereas the University gets around 6.
- In the Air Force, active duty officers can get their advanced degrees. Currently, 7 officers are in the process of getting their advanced degrees at the University.
- Cadre issues:
    - The Air Force would like to offer, through the University, a ground school for pilots. This could be a very good recruiting tool for the University.
    - The Air Force would like to offer an Aerospace Studies Minor.
    - The Air Force is interested in gaining permission from the University to have students get credit for their required field training. Other universities across the country are offering credit for this type of training. Offering credit would be an added incentive for students to do well.

Questions/comments from members:

- From an academic standpoint, why should credit be given for field training? Colonel Gilman explained that beyond the fitness aspects of this training, a lot of leadership, critical thinking and decision-making skills are learned. This field training is very demanding both physically as well as mentally.

- What is the estimated timeline for resolution of issues around the firing range? This remains an on-going issue. The next step in the process is to receive the engineering report from Gordon Girtz of Environmental Health and Safety.
- Colonel Gilman noted that when the Air Force sent its soldiers over to Afghanistan, there were physical fitness issues in terms of their ability to perform in that type of environment. As a result, the Air Force has stepped up its physical fitness requirements, both in ROTC and for active duty soldiers. This can be challenging, especially in northern climates. Attempts are being made to get the Air Force to pay for gym memberships, however that has not happened yet. Many universities across the country are allowing ROTC students to use their gymnasium facilities at no charge and the Air Force thinks it would be a benevolent gesture on the part of the University if it would do the same.
- Captain Marc Stanley reported that discussions surrounding the Œsharing[1] of the Armory Garage are off the table.

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

Renee Dempsey
University Senate