

ROTC SENATE MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
APRIL 9, 2004

[In these minutes: Army Briefing, Navy Briefing, Air Force Briefing, Naval Science & Leadership Minor Update, Firing Range Update, Minnesota Daily Article Correction, Navy to Coordinate Senate ROTC Subcommittee Meetings for 2004 - 2005]

[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

I). Professor Adams called the meeting to order.

II). Opening Remarks: Professor Adams announced that he has recommended to Committee on Committees that they consider appointing Professor Ken Roering from the Carlson School of Management to the Senate ROTC Subcommittee. In Professor Adams opinion, Professor Roering would be an asset to this Subcommittee.

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

- New cadre to the AROTC program include MSG Michalec, SFC Nolen and CPT Kemp. All are doing an excellent job. Each has already contributed significantly to the success of the program. There will be two additional cadre arriving this summer, MAJ Thompson and MAJ Johnson. MAJ Thompson will assume Lieutenant Colonel Trenda<sup>1</sup>'s position as Commander and MAJ Johnson will replace MAJ Frazer as Executive Officer.
- The program continues to average approximately 80 cadets. The AROTC program will make its assigned commission mission again this year. The AROTC program is on track for making commission the next two years as well.

- Approximately 19 cadets will be sent to Fort Lewis for a summer training program, another 6 cadets will be sent to airborne/air assault school and 1 cadet will go to training at Fort Knox.
- Retention percents remain above average for the program. This indicates that the right cadets are being identified for the program and that they are receiving a professional, exciting ROTC experience.
- Training continues to be the Army<sup>1</sup>'s hallmark.
- This fall the program had two inspections by the Brigade Commander, COL Dennis. In both instances, she was impressed with the program.
- The AROTC program is desperately trying to recruit nursing cadets. A significant amount of effort has been spent trying to recruit these cadets, to no avail. The AROTC has scholarship money available to deserving students interested in becoming Army nurses. Dr. Craig Swan volunteered to help Lieutenant Colonel Trenda make contact with Professor Ruth Lindquist in the School of Nursing, as a possible recruiting resource for the Army.

IV). Next Captain Stanley provided members with a Navy ROTC briefing. He highlighted the following:

- Currently the NROTC program has approximately 70 students.
- The average cumulative GPA for the unit is 3.12. The program monitors student performance very closely each semester.
- At the Tulane Drill Meet, the University finished 8<sup>th</sup> out of 57 teams, which is a tremendous accomplishment.
- The Drill Team opened for the Marine Corps Battle Colors Detachment at the Excel Energy Center, which was attended by the Governor and numerous Congressional representatives.
- NROTC Staffing Update:
  - LT Will Brooks and LT Vince Peeler started this week.
  - CDR Brad Meeks recently departed to take command of a major recruiting district in Minneapolis.
  - CAPT Jim Coulson who will relieve CAPT Stanley will start on April 19, 2004.
  - GySgt Tate arrives in June to relieve GySgt Reid.
  - CDR Chip Altman arrives in July to relieve CDR Hutton who departs in September.

- Rear Admiral Rondeau visited the unit approximately a month and a half month ago and was very happy with what she observed. The unit is graded on retention, grades, submission of timely reports, etc.
- Upcoming Tri-Service events include:
  - Tri-Service Sports Day (Joint Military Athletic Competition - JMAC) on April 24, 2004
  - Tri-Service Review and Awards Ceremony at 10:00 a.m. on May 1, 2004, and then later that evening there is the Tri-Service Ball to be held at the Radisson Metrodome.
  - Change of Command & Retirement Ceremony for CAPT Stanley will be held at 10:00 a.m. on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Armory Gymnasium.
  - Tri-Service Commissioning will take place on May 20, 2004 in Coffman Union<sup>1</sup>'s Great Hall.

Questions/comments from members:

- What is the status of nursing students in the Navy ROTC program?  
Typically the Navy has one or two nursing students in their program at any given time. Currently, the Navy has no active ROTC nursing students. Recently, however, one student has been approved for a lateral transfer into the University<sup>1</sup>'s nursing program and this student is expected to graduate in 2006. Interestingly, there are two students in the medical corp program who are training to become doctors.
- What is the status of nursing students in the Air Force ROTC program?  
The Air Force currently has one nursing student that will graduate this year. Unfortunately, the University<sup>1</sup>'s nursing program is structured so it does not blend well with the Air Force<sup>1</sup>'s schedule. The Air Force has a huge need for nurses, which it is unable to meet. All the services are as competitive as they need to be in order to attract nursing students, but recruitment remains difficult.

V). CDR Hutton updated members on the Naval Science & Leadership Minor, which was originally proposed in 2000. He noted that because creating a new minor is quite an involved process, it has been suggested that it would be more efficient to modify the Army<sup>1</sup>'s already established Military Science Minor to include eligibility for all four services. Such a change would require renaming the minor and adding course criteria for Navy, Marine Corp and Air Force students. Once a well-defined proposal to modify this minor has been drafted, it would need to be submitted to

the administration for approval. CDR Hutton, on behalf of the Navy, will work in conjunction with the other services on drafting this proposal.

VI). Colonel Gilman provided members with an Air Force briefing and highlighted the following:

- The Air Force will have no cadre changes for next year, which is good news.
- The University is one of a handful of schools with a pilot on staff, Major Greg Webster. Having a pilot on staff is an asset to the program because it attracts students that may not otherwise come to the University.
- The Air Force has approximately 73 cadets and will be commissioning 13 by this summer.
- Training was recently conducted at Minot Air Force Base.
- The Air Force has been forced to change its military mindset with respect to its physical fitness requirements. Those in the Air Force are being required to gain more military hands-on skills.
- An Air Force commander conducted this year's OMinor<sup>1</sup> year inspection, and was pleased with the program.

VII). Other Business:

A). A member asked for a status update on the Armory<sup>1</sup>'s firing range. Attempts are underway to try and get the Army to help clean-up the range. If the Army cannot be persuaded, then the Navy will be pressed to see if they can help.

There has been outside interest by the Minneapolis Rifle Club and the DNR<sup>1</sup>'s Fisheries and Wildlife Department, who teaches firearms safety courses, to have the range reopened. The ROTC continues work with Mr. Gordon Girtz of the University<sup>1</sup>'s Department of Environmental Health and Safety on the feasibility and logistics of reopening the range. Other departments on campus that could also benefit from reopening the range include the University<sup>1</sup>'s Police Department and the Department of Recreational Sports who have expressed an interest re-establishing a University rifle and pistol club.

It was noted that Fort McCoy fixed St. Thomas<sup>1</sup> Junior ROTC Range. The University is approaching Fort McCoy to assist with the clean-up of the University<sup>1</sup>'s range.

B). Referencing an April 2, 2004 Minnesota Daily article, CEROTC at the U: silent prejudice<sup>1</sup>, Lieutenant Trenda noted that the ROTC has no such policy against gays and lesbians in the ROTC. The ROTC drafted this correction and sent it to the Daily for their information.

C). Next year the Navy will be responsible for coordinating the Senate ROTC Subcommittee meetings.

VIII). Professor Adams reported that he has enjoyed serving on the Subcommittee and it has been a great pleasure working with all the services. He also thanked Dr. Swan, representing the administration, for his participation and involvement on the Subcommittee. Members, in turn, thanked Professor Adams for his leadership over the years. Hearing no further business, Professor Adams adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey  
University Senate